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Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:55 AM
To: Rep76
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Tuesday, October 17

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MEDIA CLIPS

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**News
Bill Tracking
Legislation**

NEWS

**GOP lawmaker ends her bid to become Ohio secretary of state
(Associated Press, 10/17/2017)**

Ohio Turnpike plans alerts system for tech-connected cars (Associated Press, 10/17/2017)

Q and A: Alt-right leader Richard Spencer at UC (Cincinnati Enquirer, 10/17/2017)

**Dorothy Pelanda ends campaign to become Ohio's secretary of state
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/17/2017)**

Issue 2 FAQ: What you need to know before you vote (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/17/2017)

**Bill seeks changes in Ohio testing, teacher evals, school mandates
(Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)**

**Curbs on payday loans a tough sell to Ohio lawmakers (Columbus
Dispatch, 10/17/2017)**

**Ohio lawmakers loading campaign coffers in preparation for 2018
(Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)**

**Pelanda drops from Secretary of State race, leaving 1 Republican
(Columbus Dispatch, 10/17/2017)**

**Records regarding Mandel commercials hard to come by (Columbus
Dispatch, 10/17/2017)**

**If money wins elections, Ohio's congressional races are no contest
(Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)**

**Ohio income tax collection change 'a solution in search of a problem'
(Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)**

**Portman pushes tax reform with Springfield business leaders (Dayton
Daily News, 10/17/2017)**

**Teens may see major changes to driving laws in Ohio (Dayton Daily
News, 10/17/2017)**

**What's at stake? State's largest pension system considers benefit cuts
(Dayton Daily News, 10/17/2017)**

**Michigan groups join to communicate about Lake Erie (Toledo Blade,
10/17/2017)**

**One left standing in GOP contest for secretary of state (Toledo Blade,
10/17/2017)**

Task force visits 180th Fighter Wing (Toledo Blade, 10/17/2017)

**UAW backs Sen. Brown after some unions left Dems in 2016
(Youngstown Vindicator, 10/17/2017)**

EDITORIALS

**Beacon Journal editorial board: Mary Taylor, the governor and other
friends of small business (Akron Beacon Journal, 10/17/2017)**

**Editorial: Stop tethering dogs; rein in owners (Columbus Dispatch,
10/17/2017)**

We need to fix the infant mortality problem (Toledo Blade, 10/17/2017)

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From: Charter Policy

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 11:14 AM

To: Rep76

Subject: 1,000 new jobs at new Stamford HQ, veterans hiring and more!

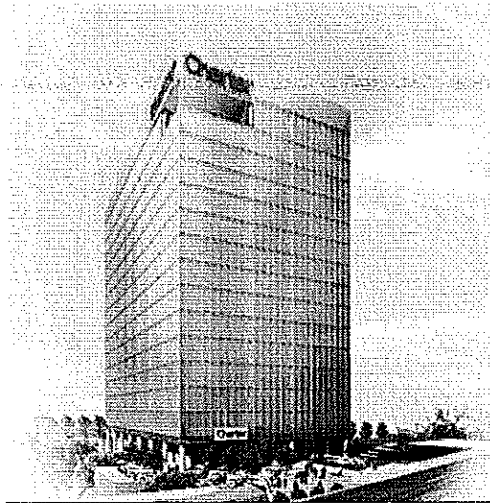
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Charter | POLICY
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS & UPDATES | OCT 20, 2017

New State-of-the-Art Charter Headquarters in Stamford, CT



Early next year, we'll break ground on a new Charter headquarters building in Stamford, Connecticut, at the Gateway Harbor Point. Our new HQ, will be home to more than 1,000 new employees. We look forward to growing our strong and diverse workforce in the state of

Connecticut and across our national footprint. Here's what our CEO Tom Rutledge said in our announcement:

"Since relocating Charter's headquarter operations to Stamford in 2012, the company has undergone a transformation to become the second largest cable provider in the U.S. This new, state-of-the-art facility in downtown Stamford will provide Charter the necessary resources to facilitate its continued growth. We are excited to continue expanding in Connecticut, and thank Governor Malloy, Mayor Martin, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and the entire Stamford-area federal, state and local delegation of elected officials for their continued partnership and support."

Read more.



Paul Marchand testifying before House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee



Charter at the Military Spouse Employment Partnership induction ceremony

Our Commitment to Veterans Has Never Been Stronger

Over the past few weeks, we have had the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to providing career opportunities to veterans and their families.

Paul Marchand, Charter's Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic

**Opportunity about our Spectrum Broadband Technician Apprenticeship Program.
Check out this clip from the hearing.**

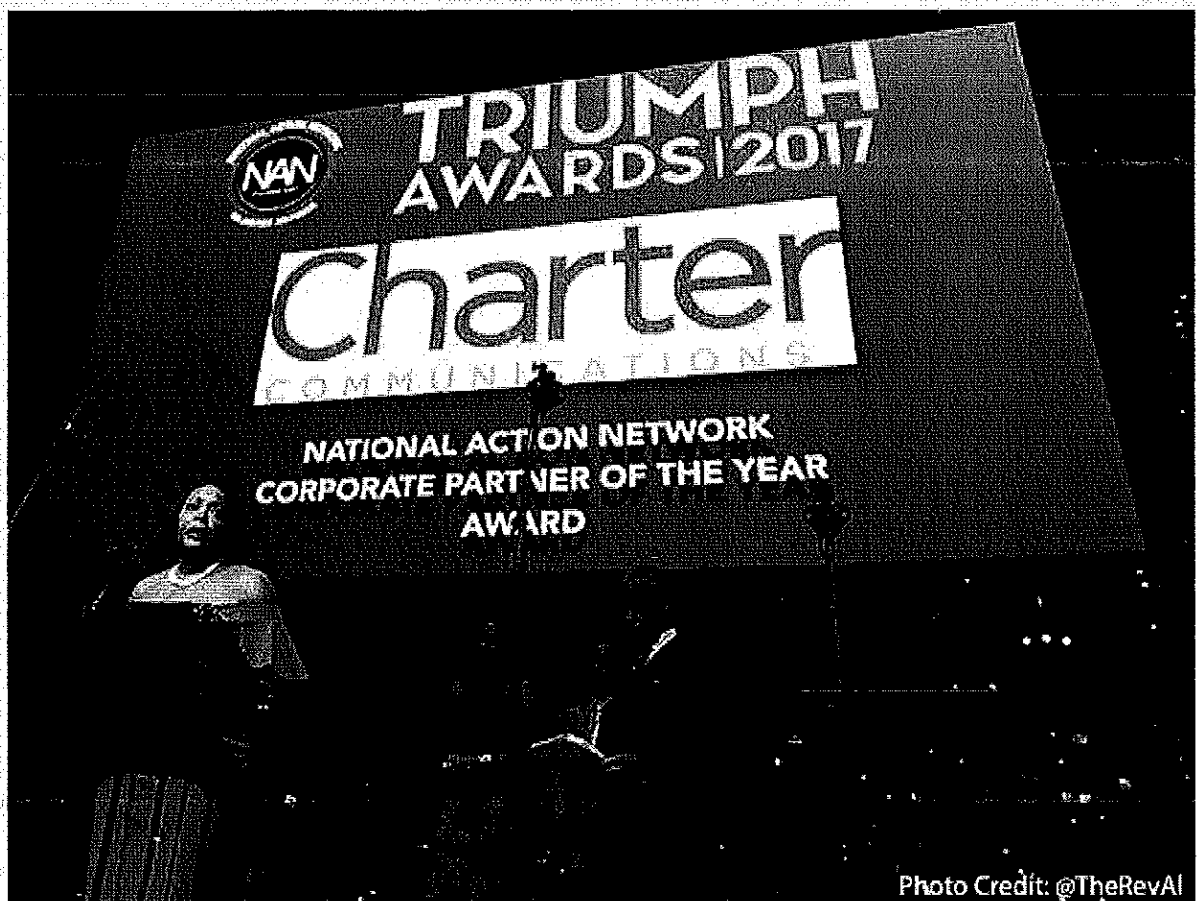
This highly regarded program, certified by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), provides newly hired broadband technicians with the opportunity to receive Apprenticeship Certification and use their skills to start a second career at Charter. We are working with the U.S. Department of Labor to expand this successful initiative from five states into a national program.

Charter was also officially inducted into the Department of Defense's Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), a program that connects military spouses with employers like Charter who are committed to recruit, hire, promote and retain them in portable careers.

These efforts will help us succeed in growing our highly trained diverse workforce and continue to offer high-value products and better services to our customers.

Read more on the partnership.





National Action Network Awards Rhonda Crichlow the 2017 Triumph Award

Congratulations to Charter Chief Diversity Officer Rhonda Crichlow on receiving the 2017 National Action Network "Corporate Partner" Triumph Award on behalf of Charter. Rhonda is leading strategic initiatives to ensure that diversity and inclusion practices are integrated into all aspects of our business. **She accepted the award in New York City earlier this month.**



Charter Policy 1099 New York Ave. NW Suite 650
Washington, Dc 20001 USA

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From: Roger Beckett

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 3:49 PM

To: Rep76

Subject: Join Ashbrook in Mansfield: November 3rd with Brian Kilmeade

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Brian Kilmeade

Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans

The Second Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture

Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Renaissance Theatre
138 Park Avenue West
Mansfield, Ohio



You're invited to the Second Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture with bestselling author **Brian Kilmeade** on Friday, November 3.

Kilmeade is co-host of the popular *Fox & Friends* morning program and host of the nationally syndicated radio program, *The Brian Kilmeade Show*.

Kilmeade will make history come alive with his telling of riveting true stories from our American history as he speaks about his new book, *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans*. He will discuss the development of Jackson's character and bring you to the scene of one of the most pivotal battles in our nation's history.

Tickets for general seating are available for \$20 each. A book signing will follow. To purchase tickets please contact Carrie Clever at the Ashbrook Center at 419-289-5411 or cclever@ashbrook.org.

We are grateful to Samuel H. and Maria Miller and WMAN Radio for their generous support of the Peter W. Schramm Memorial Lecture.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available at \$1,000 and include a private reception and photo-op with Brian Kilmeade.

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Ashbrook Center
401 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805

From: Nikki Comerford
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 5:19 PM
To: Rep76
Subject: Labor Reform Policy Forum

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FREEDOM RISING



Freedom Rising

Heartland Events

Mark your calendar. Plan to attend. Be our guest.

Labor Reform Policy Forum

Please join [Americans for Prosperity](#)-Columbus and The Heartland Institute for their "Policy Brief: Labor Reform in 2017" event, which will be held on Thursday, November 2, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Columbus, Ohio.

What impacts do labor regulations have on Ohio's employees

and businesses? Which policies are working, and which are stifling growth? What changes need to take place to meet the needs of our modern labor force? We aim to answer these questions and more at the "Policy Brief: Labor Reform in 2017" event.

Americans for Prosperity-Columbus and The Heartland Institute will welcome Micah Derry, state director for Americans for Prosperity-Ohio, and Jesse Hathaway, research fellow for Heartland's Center on Budgets and Taxes, as guest panelists.

Our "Policy Brief" event series aims to update Ohioans on timely issues through bi-monthly discussions with policy experts. Attendees will have the opportunity to question speakers after each forum and network with other professionals throughout the evening.



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY**

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Future Events

Saturday, November 4

Educational Freedom Tour- stop 2

O'Fallon, IL

Thursday, November 9

America First Energy Conference

Houston, TX

Thursday, November 16

Dan Pilla talks about his chapter in Heartland's new book *Patriot's Tool Box*

Arlington Heights, IL

Thursday, December 7

Educational Freedom Tour - stop 3

Bettendorf, IA

Saturday, December 9

Helping Students Understand the Constitution

Arlington Heights, IL

Wednesday, December 13

Occupational Licensing

Arlington Heights, IL

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The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Road | Arlington Heights | IL | 60004 | [312/377-4000](tel:3123774000)
Our events with activists and intellectuals are specifically designed to showcase freedom. We are close to your home with easy access and plenty of free parking, so we hope to see you at our Arlington Heights facility.

This message was sent to rep76@ohiohouse.gov from ncomerford@heartland.org

Nikki Comerford
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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TRY IT FOR FREE >

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From: Nikki Comerford

Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2017 9:26 AM

To: Rep76

Subject: WATCH LIVE TODAY AT 10AM (CT) THE EDUCATION FREEDOM
TOUR KICK OFF EVENT

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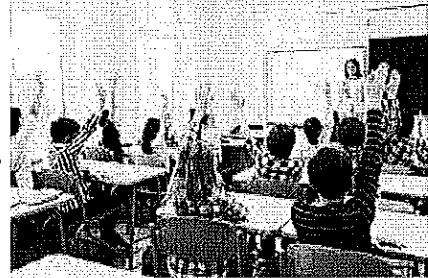
Education Freedom Tour Kickoff Event **Watch live at 10AM (CT)**

Some of the issues that will be addressed:

- Why do your property taxes keep increasing?
- How is education funded in Illinois?
- Will the Chicago Public School District receive a state bailout?
- How can Illinois taxpayers fight to decrease property taxes?
- What is education freedom?
- Should parents be able to decide which school their child attends?

- What are the differences between public, private, and charter schools?
- What is the best way to implement education freedom: vouchers, education savings accounts, or tax-credit scholarships?

This event will help you learn more about education freedom and funding. After attending, you will be able to inform your family, friends, neighbors, legislators, school board members, and, most importantly, other parents about these significant issues.



Schedule:

10:15 am – Introduction of Heartland by Lennie Jarratt

10:20 am – Introduction of Americans for Prosperity

10:25 am – Andrew Nelms- Illinois property taxes

10:35 am – Representative Allen Skillicorn-Illinois property taxes and education choice

10:50 am – Lennie Jarratt-education choice

11:00 am – Panelist discussion

11:15 am – Audience Q & A

Watch live!

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Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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From: Cech, Daniel
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 1:48 PM
To: House_All
CC: LSC; Wendy Estes; Dawn Palmer
Subject: House Calendar 10-24-2017
Attachments: house_calendar_10242017_01.pdf

**132ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF OHIO**

HOUSE CALENDAR

**TUESDAY - OCTOBER 24, 2017 - 11:00
AM**

Bills for Third Consideration

Sub. H. B. No. 142 – Representative Wiggam

Cosponsors: Representatives Lipps, Goodman, Kick, Merrin, Hood, Thompson, Conditt, Keller, Vitale, Roegner, Koehler, Brinkman, Becker, Seitz, Dean

To amend sections 2923.12, 2923.126, 2923.128, and 2923.16 of the Revised Code to modify the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped.

(Committee on Federalism and Interstate Relations recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, September 20, 2017, p. 1049.)

Sub. H. B. No. 168 – Representative Stein

Cosponsors: Representatives Boccieri, Brenner, Hambley, LaTourette, Seitz, Arndt, Carfagna, O'Brien, Blessing

To amend sections 1721.21, 1721.211, 4717.03, 4717.13, 4717.14, 4717.36, 4767.01, 4767.02, 4767.03, 4767.04, 4767.05, 4767.06, 4767.07, and 4767.08 and to enact sections 4767.021, 4767.09, 4767.10, and 4767.11 of the Revised Code to modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, to allow the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to review and vote upon certain license suspensions by telephone, to make various other changes to the embalmers, funeral directors, and crematory licensing laws, and to make an appropriation.

(Committee on Finance recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1062.)
(Committee on Rules and Reference recommends re-referral, see House Journal, June 6, 2017, p. 523.)
(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for re-referral, see House Journal, June 6, 2017, p. 520.)

H. B. No. 194 – Representatives Johnson, Craig

Cosponsors: Representatives Anielski, Arndt, Boccieri, Butler, Conditt, Dean, Dever, Ginter, Gonzales, Keller, Landis, Riedel, Ryan, Stein, Strahorn, Thompson, Wiggam, Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Householder, Howse, Hughes, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, Reece, West

To enact section 4503.29 and to repeal sections 4503.431, 4503.432, 4503.433, 4503.434, 4503.48, 4503.481, 4503.53, 4503.532, 4503.533, 4503.536, 4503.537, 4503.538, 4503.54, 4503.541, 4503.543, 4503.544, 4503.547, 4503.548, 4503.571, 4503.581, 4503.59, and 4503.731 of the Revised Code to establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 24, 2017, p. 505.)

Sub. H. B. No. 251 – Representative Greenspan

Cosponsors: Representatives Hambley, Stein, Dever

To amend sections 135.14 and 135.35 of the Revised Code to increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund.

(Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, October 10, 2017, p. 1078.)

Sub. S. B. No. 3 – Senators Beagle, Balderson

Cosponsors: Senators Bacon, Brown, Gardner, Hite, Hoagland, Manning, Tavares, Terhar, LaRose, Hottinger, Uecker, Coley, Dolan, Eklund, Hackett, Huffman, Kunze, Lehner, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Sykes, Williams, Wilson, Yuko Representatives Duffey, Romanchuk

To enact section 5.281 of the Revised Code to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

(House committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, October 12, 2017, p. 1103.)

(Senate recommends passage, see Senate Journal, April 26, 2017, p. 356.)

(Senate committee on Transportation, Commerce and Workforce recommends substitute bill for passage, see Senate Journal, April 5, 2017, p. 314.)

(Bills or resolutions below the black line have been recommended for passage or adoption by designated committees)

Sub. H. B. No. 2 – Representative Seitz

To amend sections 2315.18, 2315.21, 4112.01, 4112.02, 4112.04, 4112.05, 4112.08, 4112.14, and 4112.99; to amend, for the purpose of adopting new section numbers as indicated in parentheses, sections 4112.051 (4112.055) and 4112.052 (4112.056); and to enact new sections 4112.051 and 4112.052 and section 4112.054 of the Revised Code to modify Ohio civil rights laws related to employment.

(Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, May 10, 2017, p. 449.)

Sub. H. B. No. 35 – Representative Hughes

Cosponsors: Representatives Patton, Lipps, Antani, Blessing, Faber, Schaffer, Hambley, Sprague, Boccieri, Seitz, Dever, Brenner, Leland

To amend sections 102.02, 109.572, 111.15, 119.01, 121.07, 131.11, 135.03, 135.032, 135.32, 135.321, 135.51, 135.52, 135.53, 323.134, 339.06, 513.17, 749.081, 755.141, 902.01, 924.10, 924.26, 924.45, 1101.01, 1101.02, 1101.03, 1101.15, 1101.16, 1103.01, 1103.02, 1103.03, 1103.06, 1103.07, 1103.08, 1103.09, 1103.11, 1103.13, 1103.14, 1103.15, 1103.16, 1103.18, 1103.19, 1103.20, 1103.21, 1105.01, 1105.02, 1105.03, 1105.04, 1105.08, 1105.10, 1105.11, 1107.03, 1107.05, 1107.07, 1107.09, 1107.11, 1107.13, 1107.15, 1109.01, 1109.02, 1109.03, 1109.05, 1109.08, 1109.10, 1109.15, 1109.16, 1109.17, 1109.22, 1109.23, 1109.24, 1109.25, 1109.26, 1109.31, 1109.32, 1109.33, 1109.34, 1109.35, 1109.36, 1109.39, 1109.40, 1109.43, 1109.44, 1109.45, 1109.47, 1109.48, 1109.49, 1109.53, 1109.54, 1109.55, 1109.59, 1109.61, 1109.63, 1109.64, 1109.65, 1109.69, 1111.01, 1111.02, 1111.03, 1111.04, 1111.06, 1111.07, 1111.08, 1111.09, 1113.01, 1113.03, 1113.05, 1113.06, 1113.08, 1113.09, 1115.01, 1115.05, 1115.06, 1115.07, 1115.11, 1115.111, 1115.14, 1115.15, 1115.20, 1115.23, 1115.27, 1117.01, 1117.02, 1117.04, 1117.05, 1119.11, 1119.17, 1119.23, 1119.26, 1121.01, 1121.02, 1121.05, 1121.06, 1121.10, 1121.12, 1121.13, 1121.15, 1121.16, 1121.17, 1121.18, 1121.21, 1121.23, 1121.26, 1121.30, 1121.33, 1121.34, 1121.38, 1121.41, 1121.43, 1121.45, 1121.47, 1121.48, 1121.50, 1121.56, 1123.01, 1125.01, 1125.03, 1125.04, 1125.05, 1125.06, 1125.09, 1125.10, 1125.11, 1125.12, 1125.13, 1125.14, 1125.17, 1125.18, 1125.19, 1125.20, 1125.21, 1125.22, 1125.23, 1125.24, 1125.25, 1125.26, 1125.27, 1125.28, 1125.29, 1125.30, 1125.33, 1181.01, 1181.02, 1181.03, 1181.04, 1181.05, 1181.06, 1181.07, 1181.10, 1181.11, 1181.21, 1181.25, 1349.16, 1509.07, 1509.225, 1510.09, 1514.04, 1707.03, 1901.31, 2335.25, 3351.07, 3767.41, 4303.293, and 5814.01; to amend, for the purpose of adopting new section numbers as indicated in parentheses, sections 1103.01 (1113.01), 1103.06 (1113.04), 1103.08 (1113.12), 1103.09 (1113.13), 1103.11 (1113.11), 1103.13 (1113.14), 1103.14 (1113.15), 1103.15 (1113.16), 1103.16 (1113.17), 1103.21 (1117.07), and 1113.01 (1113.02) and to enact new section 1121.52 and sections 1101.05, 1103.99, 1109.021, 1109.04, 1109.151, 1109.441, 1109.62, 1114.01, 1114.02, 1114.03, 1114.04, 1114.05, 1114.06, 1114.07, 1114.08, 1114.09, 1114.10, 1114.11, 1114.12, 1114.16, 1115.02, 1115.03, 1115.24, 1116.01, 1116.02, 1116.05, 1116.06, 1116.07, 1116.08, 1116.09, 1116.10, 1116.11, 1116.12, 1116.13, 1116.16, 1116.18, 1116.19, 1116.20, 1116.21, and 1121.19, and to

repeal sections 1105.06, 1107.01, 1109.60, 1115.18, 1115.19, 1115.25, 1121.52, 1133.01, 1133.02, 1133.03, 1133.04, 1133.05, 1133.06, 1133.07, 1133.08, 1133.09, 1133.10, 1133.11, 1133.12, 1133.13, 1133.14, 1133.15, 1133.16, 1151.01, 1151.02, 1151.03, 1151.04, 1151.05, 1151.051, 1151.052, 1151.053, 1151.06, 1151.07, 1151.08, 1151.081, 1151.09, 1151.091, 1151.10, 1151.11, 1151.12, 1151.13, 1151.14, 1151.15, 1151.16, 1151.17, 1151.18, 1151.19, 1151.191, 1151.192, 1151.20, 1151.201, 1151.21, 1151.22, 1151.23, 1151.231, 1151.24, 1151.25, 1151.26, 1151.27, 1151.28, 1151.29, 1151.291, 1151.292, 1151.293, 1151.294, 1151.295, 1151.296, 1151.297, 1151.298, 1151.299, 1151.2910, 1151.2911, 1151.30, 1151.31, 1151.311, 1151.312, 1151.32, 1151.321, 1151.323, 1151.33, 1151.34, 1151.341, 1151.342, 1151.343, 1151.344, 1151.345, 1151.346, 1151.347, 1151.348, 1151.349, 1151.35, 1151.36, 1151.361, 1151.37, 1151.38, 1151.39, 1151.40, 1151.41, 1151.411, 1151.42, 1151.44, 1151.45, 1151.46, 1151.47, 1151.471, 1151.48, 1151.49, 1151.51, 1151.52, 1151.53, 1151.54, 1151.55, 1151.60, 1151.61, 1151.62, 1151.63, 1151.64, 1151.66, 1151.71, 1151.72, 1151.99, 1153.03, 1153.05, 1153.06, 1153.07, 1153.99, 1155.01, 1155.011, 1155.02, 1155.021, 1155.03, 1155.05, 1155.07, 1155.071, 1155.08, 1155.09, 1155.091, 1155.10, 1155.11, 1155.12, 1155.15, 1155.16, 1155.17, 1155.18, 1155.20, 1155.21, 1155.23, 1155.24, 1155.25, 1155.26, 1155.27, 1155.28, 1155.31, 1155.35, 1155.37, 1155.41, 1155.42, 1155.43, 1155.44, 1155.45, 1155.46, 1155.47, 1157.01, 1157.03, 1157.04, 1157.05, 1157.06, 1157.09, 1157.10, 1157.11, 1157.12, 1157.13, 1157.14, 1157.17, 1157.18, 1157.19, 1157.20, 1157.21, 1157.22, 1157.23, 1157.24, 1157.25, 1157.26, 1157.27, 1157.28, 1157.29, 1157.30, 1157.33, 1161.01, 1161.02, 1161.03, 1161.04, 1161.05, 1161.06, 1161.07, 1161.071, 1161.08, 1161.09, 1161.10, 1161.11, 1161.111, 1161.12, 1161.13, 1161.14, 1161.15, 1161.16, 1161.17, 1161.18, 1161.19, 1161.20, 1161.21, 1161.22, 1161.23, 1161.24, 1161.25, 1161.26, 1161.27, 1161.28, 1161.29, 1161.30, 1161.31, 1161.32, 1161.33, 1161.34, 1161.35, 1161.36, 1161.37, 1161.38, 1161.39, 1161.40, 1161.41, 1161.42, 1161.43, 1161.44, 1161.441, 1161.45, 1161.46, 1161.47, 1161.48, 1161.49, 1161.50, 1161.51, 1161.52, 1161.53, 1161.54, 1161.55, 1161.56, 1161.57, 1161.58, 1161.59, 1161.60, 1161.601, 1161.61, 1161.62, 1161.63, 1161.631, 1161.64, 1161.65, 1161.66, 1161.67, 1161.68, 1161.69, 1161.70, 1161.71, 1161.72, 1161.73, 1161.74, 1161.75, 1161.76, 1161.77, 1161.78, 1161.79, 1161.80, 1161.81, 1163.01, 1163.02, 1163.03, 1163.04, 1163.05, 1163.07, 1163.09, 1163.10, 1163.11, 1163.12, 1163.121, 1163.13, 1163.14, 1163.15, 1163.19, 1163.20, 1163.21, 1163.22, 1163.24, 1163.25, 1163.26, 1163.27, 1165.01, 1165.03, 1165.04, 1165.05, 1165.06, 1165.09, 1165.10, 1165.11, 1165.12, 1165.13, 1165.14, 1165.17, 1165.18, 1165.19, 1165.20, 1165.21, 1165.22, 1165.23, 1165.24, 1165.25, 1165.26, 1165.27, 1165.28, 1165.29, 1165.30, 1165.33, 1181.16, 1181.17, and 1181.18 of the Revised Code for the purpose of enacting a new banking law for the State of Ohio.

(Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, March 8, 2017, p. 217.)

Am. H. B. No. 39 – Representatives Arndt, Gavarone

Cosponsors: Representatives Anielski, Hambley, Bishoff, Carfagna

To enact section 505.872 of the Revised Code to authorize certain townships to require the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting property.

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, March 22, 2017, p. 261.)

Sub. H. B. No. 42 – Representatives Sprague, DeVitis

Cosponsor: Representative Seitz

To amend section 1345.99 and to enact section 1345.022 of the Revised Code to prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles.

(Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, May 10, 2017, p. 449.)

Sub. H. B. No. 50 – Representative Schaffer

Cosponsors: Representatives Roegner, Koehler, Retherford, McColley, Brenner, Conditt, Thompson, Becker, Wiggam, Riedel, Blessing, Henne, Dean, Seitz, Merrin, Goodman, LaTourette, Hambley, Antani, Young

To amend sections 4501.27, 5101.33, and 5101.542 and to enact section 5101.331 of the Revised Code to establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(Committee on Community and Family Advancement recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, June 8, 2017, p. 543.)

Am. H. B. No. 51 – Representative Faber

Cosponsors: Representatives Becker, Brinkman, Butler, Dean, Dever, DeVitis, Green, Goodman, Hagan, Henne, Keller, Kick, Koehler, Lipps, Merrin, Retherford, Riedel, Roegner, Romanchuk, Scherer, Stein, Thompson, Vitale, Young

To amend section 117.46 and to enact sections 101.88, 101.881, 101.882, and 101.89 of the Revised Code to require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, May 16, 2017, p. 463.)

H. B. No. 58 – Representatives Brenner, Slaby

Cosponsors: Representatives Perales, Zeltwanger, Vitale, Hambley, Conditt, Young, Roegner, Riedel, Thompson, Dean, Cupp, Keller, Blessing

To amend section 3313.60 of the Revised Code to require instruction in cursive handwriting.

(Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development recommends passage, see House Journal, June 21, 2017, p. 567.)

H. B. No. 88 – Representative Anielski

Cosponsors: Representatives Patton, Roegner, Slaby, Howse, Celebrezze, Sykes, Green, Greenspan, DeVitis, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, West

To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.905 of the Revised Code to create the "Cuyahoga Valley Career Center" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, March 16, 2017, p. 248.)

H. B. No. 98 – Representatives Duffey, Boggs

Cosponsors: Representatives Miller, Bishoff, Dever, Dean, West, Seitz, Zeltwanger, Hood, Young, Stein, Lepore-Hagan, Romanchuk, Brenner

To amend section 3313.471 of the Revised Code regarding the presentation of career information to students.

(Committee on Education and Career Readiness recommends passage, see House Journal, October 11, 2017, p. 1088.)

Am. H. B. No. 104 – Representative Schaffer

Cosponsors: Representatives Henne, Boccieri, Seitz, Becker, Riedel, Hood, Brinkman, Stein, Bishoff, Dever, Brenner

To amend section 5739.121 of the Revised Code to allow vendors to receive a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit accounts when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit account lender.

(Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, April 26, 2017, p. 358.)

Am. H. B. No. 134 – Representatives Hambley, Kick

Cosponsors: Representatives Wiggam, Stein

To amend sections 307.283 and 5739.026 of the Revised Code to allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, May 16, 2017, p. 464.)

H. B. No. 135 – Representative Patmon

To enact section 5.49 of the Revised Code to designate June 12th as "Superman Day."

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, May 16, 2017, p. 465.)

H. B. No. 136 – Representative Arndt

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, Hughes, Lepore-Hagan, West

To enact sections 5534.802 and 5534.803 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 61 in Erie County as the "SGT David Sexton Memorial Highway" and a portion of Benton-Carroll Road in Ottawa County as "SGT Glen Millinger Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 1, 2017, p. 364.)

Am. H. B. No. 137 – Representative Kent

Cosponsors: Representatives Ashford, Miller, Clyde, Manning, Rezabek, Celebrezze, Rogers

To amend section 2151.421 of the Revised Code to make peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect and to expand the types of peace officers authorized to receive reports of child abuse and neglect.

(Committee on Criminal Justice recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, October 11, 2017, p. 1088.)

H. B. No. 140 – Representative Green

Cosponsors: Representatives Bocchieri, Cera, Faber, Johnson, Lipps, Miller, Perales, Riedel, Rogers, Sheehy, Sprague, Sweeney, Greenspan, Hughes, Lepore-Hagan

To enact section 5534.78 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 32 in Brown and Highland Counties as the "Army Specialist Danny Raymond King Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 1, 2017, p. 365.)

H. B. No. 183 – Representative Perales

Cosponsors: Representatives Butler, Sweeney, Craig, Hambley, Bocchieri, Riedel, Lipps, Rezabek, Seitz, O'Brien, Johnson, Lanese, Landis, Miller, Young

To enact section 4561.02 of the Revised Code to establish the Governing Board of the Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame and Learning Center for purposes of establishing the Hall and inducting persons into it.

(Committee on Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security recommends passage, see House Journal, June 8, 2017, p. 544.)

H. B. No. 202 – Representative Thompson

Cosponsors: Representatives Johnson, Ramos, Stein, Retherford, Arndt, Rogers, Duffey, Goodman, Riedel, Howse, Smith, K., Romanchuk, Greenspan, Lepore-Hagan, Conditt, Anielski, Hill, Miller, Boccieri, Gavarone, Hambley, Scherer, Ginter, Sweeney, Sprague, West, Dean, Brenner, Kent, Cupp, Keller, Reece, Faber, Lanese, Landis, Young, Zeltwanger

To enact section 5.481 of the Revised Code to designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day."

(Committee on Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security recommends passage, see House Journal, May 25, 2017, p. 516.)

H. B. No. 212 – Representative Householder

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Keller, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, Patton, Reece, West

To enact section 5534.801 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 16 in Coshocton County as the "Staff Sergeant Paul C. Mardis Jr. Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 24, 2017, p. 505.)

Am. H. B. No. 227 – Representative LaTourette

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Sheehy

To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.88 of the Revised Code to create the "Kenston Local Schools" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, June 8, 2017, p. 545.)

H. B. No. 229 – Representatives Romanchuk, Wiggam

Cosponsors: Representatives DeVitis, Thompson, Sprague, Patton, Reece, Kent, Smith, K., Brenner, Sweeney, Hambley

To enact section 5.261 of the Revised Code to designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day."

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, June 21, 2017, p. 571.)

H. B. No. 230 – Representatives Gonzales, Ginter

Cosponsors: Representatives Greenspan, Dean, Johnson, Boccieri, Retherford, Hughes, Goodman, Antani

To amend sections 4781.40, 5301.072, 5311.191, and 5321.131 of the Revised Code to prohibit manufactured home park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of the thin blue line flag.

(Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor recommends passage, see House Journal, September 20, 2017, p. 1050.)

H. B. No. 244 – Representative Patterson

Cosponsors: Representatives Ramos, Sykes, Thompson, Kent, Antani, Antonio, Dever, Boyd, Patton, Gavarone, Sheehy, Sweeney, Boccieri, Slaby, Roegner, Smith, K., Arndt, Miller, Lepore-Hagan, Ashford, Boggs, LaTourette, O'Brien, Sprague, Huffman, Johnson, Kick, Romanchuk

To enact section 5.236 of the Revised Code to designate the month of June as "Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month."

(Committee on Health recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1029.)

H. B. No. 257 – Representative Green

Cosponsors: Representatives Cera, Craig, Faber, Galonski, Greenspan, Hambley, Lepore-Hagan, Riedel, Rogers, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Smith, K., Sprague, Sweeney, Perales, West, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Kick

To enact section 5534.804 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of U.S. Route 68 in Brown County as the "Army Specialist David Lee Bingamon Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1031.)

H. B. No. 261 – Representatives Anielski, Roegner

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Lepore-Hagan, West

To amend sections 4501.21 and 4503.772 and to enact section 4503.875 of the Revised Code to create the Walsh Jesuit license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1031.)

H. B. No. 266 – Representative Roegner

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Lepore-Hagan, West

To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.907 of the Revised Code to create the "Twinsburg City Schools" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1031.)

H. B. No. 308 – Representative Cera

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Sheehy, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, West

To enact section 5534.64 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 7 in Belmont County as the "Ohio Valley Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1063.)

H. B. No. 321 – Representatives Koehler, Green

Cosponsors: Representatives Goodman, Riedel, Brenner, Sweeney, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, West

To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.891 of the Revised Code to create the "Lions Club" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1064.)

H. B. No. 324 – Representatives Ashford, Sheehy

Cosponsors: Representatives Cera, Leland, Romanchuk, Rogers, Sweeney, Thompson, Smith, K., Miller, Lepore-Hagan, West, Riedel, Patton, Boccieri, Strahorn, Clyde, Boggs, Celebrezze, Ingram, Kent, Huffman, Fedor, Patterson, Reece, Faber, Kelly, Craig, Antonio, Sykes, O'Brien, Young, Holmes, Ramos, Green, Greenspan, Householder, Hughes, Keller, Kick, Manning

To enact section 5534.48 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of Interstate Route 75 in Lucas County as the "Toledo Firefighters J. Dickman and S. Machcinski Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1064.)

H. B. No. 330 – Representative Rogers

Cosponsors: Representatives Ashford, Boggs, Celebrezze, Craig, Kelly, Kent, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, Patton, Ramos, Riedel, Romanchuk, Scherer, Smith, K., Sweeney, West, Green, Sheehy, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, Manning

To enact section 5534.494 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 91 in Willoughby as the "Patrolman Jason Gresko Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1065.)

S. B. No. 18 – Senator Thomas

**Cosponsors: Senators Eklund, Gardner, Beagle, Yuko, Sykes, Brown, Obhof, Coley, Uecker, Bacon, Balderson, Burke, Dolan, Hackett, Hite, Hoagland, Hottinger, Huffman, Jordan, Kunze, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Oelslager, Peterson, Schiavoni, Skindell, Tavares, Terhar, Williams, Wilson
Representatives Hambley, Boyd, Carfagna**

To enact section 5.291 of the Revised Code to designate September 12 as "Jesse Owens Day."

(House committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, April 25, 2017, p. 350.)

(Senate recommends passage, see Senate Journal, March 7, 2017, p. 201.)

(Senate committee on Government Oversight and Reform recommends passage, see Senate Journal, March 2, 2017, p. 181.)

S. B. No. 62 – Senator Yuko

**Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Brown, Williams, Huffman, Hackett, Eklund, Tavares, Schiavoni, Beagle, Sykes, LaRose, Coley, Uecker, Skindell, Bacon, Balderson, Burke, Dolan, Gardner, Hite, Hoagland, Hottinger, Kunze, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Terhar, Wilson Representative
Hambley**

To enact section 5.236 of the Revised Code to designate July 8 as "Harrison Dillard Day."

(House committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, September 20, 2017, p. 1048.)

(Senate recommends passage, see Senate Journal, May 3, 2017, p. 372.)

(Senate committee on Government Oversight and Reform recommends passage, see Senate Journal, March 29, 2017, p. 300.)

Pending Matters

Am. Sub. H. B. No. 49 – Representative Smith, R. – et al.

To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

(Line item vetoes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 32, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47, see House Journal, July 6, 2017, p. 972.)

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Daniel Cech
Engrossing Clerk

Ohio House of Representatives
1 Capitol Square, Columbus Ohio 43215
614-466-0371

**132ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF OHIO**

HOUSE CALENDAR

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 24, 2017 - 11:00 AM

Bills for Third Consideration

Sub. H. B. No. 142 – Representative Wiggam

Cosponsors: Representatives Lipps, Goodman, Kick, Merrin, Hood, Thompson, Conditt, Keller, Vitale, Roegner, Kochler, Brinkman, Becker, Seitz, Dean

To amend sections 2923.12, 2923.126, 2923.128, and 2923.16 of the Revised Code to modify the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped.

(Committee on Federalism and Interstate Relations recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, September 20, 2017, p. 1049.)

Sub. H. B. No. 168 – Representative Stein

Cosponsors: Representatives Bocchieri, Brenner, Hambley, LaTourette, Seitz, Arndt, Carfagna, O'Brien, Blessing

To amend sections 1721.21, 1721.211, 4717.03, 4717.13, 4717.14, 4717.36, 4767.01, 4767.02, 4767.03, 4767.04, 4767.05, 4767.06, 4767.07, and 4767.08 and to enact sections 4767.021, 4767.09, 4767.10, and 4767.11 of the Revised Code to modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, to allow the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to review and vote upon certain license suspensions by telephone, to make various other changes to the embalmers, funeral directors, and crematory licensing laws, and to make an appropriation.

(Committee on Finance recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1062.)

(Committee on Rules and Reference recommends re-referral, see House Journal, June 6, 2017, p. 523.)

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for re-referral, see House Journal, June 6, 2017, p. 520.)

H. B. No. 194 – Representatives Johnson, Craig

Cosponsors: Representatives Anielski, Arndt, Bocchieri, Butler, Conditt, Dean, Dever, Ginter, Gonzales, Keller, Landis, Riedel, Ryan, Stein, Strahorn, Thompson, Wiggam, Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Householder, Howse, Hughes, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, Reece, West

To enact section 4503.29 and to repeal sections 4503.431, 4503.432, 4503.433, 4503.434, 4503.48, 4503.481, 4503.53, 4503.532, 4503.533, 4503.536, 4503.537, 4503.538, 4503.54, 4503.541, 4503.543, 4503.544, 4503.547, 4503.548, 4503.571, 4503.581, 4503.59, and 4503.731 of the Revised Code to establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 24, 2017, p. 505.)

Sub. H. B. No. 251 – Representative Greenspan

Cosponsors: Representatives Hambley, Stein, Dever

To amend sections 135.14 and 135.35 of the Revised Code to increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund.

(Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, October 10, 2017, p. 1078.)

Sub. S. B. No. 3 – Senators Beagle, Balderson

Cosponsors: Senators Bacon, Brown, Gardner, Hite, Hoagland, Manning, Tavares, Terhar, LaRose, Hottinger, Uecker, Coley, Dolan, Eklund, Hackett, Huffman, Kunze, Lehner, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Sykes, Williams, Wilson, Yuko Representatives Duffey, Romanchuk

To enact section 5.281 of the Revised Code to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.

(House committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, October 12, 2017, p. 1103.)

(Senate recommends passage, see Senate Journal, April 26, 2017, p. 356.)

(Senate committee on Transportation, Commerce and Workforce recommends substitute bill for passage, see Senate Journal, April 5, 2017, p. 314.)

(Bills or resolutions below the black line have been recommended for passage or adoption by designated committees)

Sub. H. B. No. 2 – Representative Seitz

To amend sections 2315.18, 2315.21, 4112.01, 4112.02, 4112.04, 4112.05, 4112.08, 4112.14, and 4112.99; to amend, for the purpose of adopting new section numbers as indicated in parentheses, sections 4112.051 (4112.055) and 4112.052 (4112.056); and to enact new sections 4112.051 and 4112.052 and section 4112.054 of the Revised Code to modify Ohio civil rights laws related to employment.

(Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, May 10, 2017, p. 449.)

Sub. H. B. No. 35 – Representative Hughes

Cosponsors: Representatives Patton, Lipps, Antani, Blessing, Faber, Schaffer, Hambley, Sprague, Boccieri, Seitz, Dever, Brenner, Leland

To amend sections 102.02, 109.572, 111.15, 119.01, 121.07, 131.11, 135.03, 135.032, 135.32, 135.321, 135.51, 135.52, 135.53, 323.134, 339.06, 513.17, 749.081, 755.141, 902.01, 924.10, 924.26, 924.45, 1101.01, 1101.02, 1101.03, 1101.15, 1101.16, 1103.01, 1103.02, 1103.03, 1103.06, 1103.07, 1103.08, 1103.09, 1103.11, 1103.13, 1103.14, 1103.15, 1103.16, 1103.18, 1103.19, 1103.20, 1103.21, 1105.01, 1105.02, 1105.03, 1105.04, 1105.08, 1105.10, 1105.11, 1107.03, 1107.05, 1107.07, 1107.09, 1107.11, 1107.13, 1107.15, 1109.01, 1109.02, 1109.03, 1109.05, 1109.08, 1109.10, 1109.15, 1109.16, 1109.17, 1109.22, 1109.23, 1109.24, 1109.25, 1109.26, 1109.31, 1109.32, 1109.33, 1109.34, 1109.35, 1109.36, 1109.39, 1109.40, 1109.43, 1109.44, 1109.45, 1109.47, 1109.48, 1109.49, 1109.53, 1109.54, 1109.55, 1109.59, 1109.61, 1109.63, 1109.64, 1109.65, 1109.69, 1111.01, 1111.02, 1111.03, 1111.04, 1111.06, 1111.07, 1111.08, 1111.09, 1113.01, 1113.03, 1113.05, 1113.06, 1113.08, 1113.09, 1115.01, 1115.05, 1115.06, 1115.07, 1115.11, 1115.111, 1115.14, 1115.15, 1115.20, 1115.23, 1115.27, 1117.01, 1117.02, 1117.04, 1117.05, 1119.11, 1119.17, 1119.23, 1119.26, 1121.01, 1121.02, 1121.05, 1121.06, 1121.10, 1121.12, 1121.13, 1121.15, 1121.16, 1121.17, 1121.18, 1121.21, 1121.23,

1121.26, 1121.30, 1121.33, 1121.34, 1121.38, 1121.41, 1121.43, 1121.45, 1121.47, 1121.48, 1121.50, 1121.56, 1123.01, 1125.01, 1125.03, 1125.04, 1125.05, 1125.06, 1125.09, 1125.10, 1125.11, 1125.12, 1125.13, 1125.14, 1125.17, 1125.18, 1125.19, 1125.20, 1125.21, 1125.22, 1125.23, 1125.24, 1125.25, 1125.26, 1125.27, 1125.28, 1125.29, 1125.30, 1125.33, 1181.01, 1181.02, 1181.03, 1181.04, 1181.05, 1181.06, 1181.07, 1181.10, 1181.11, 1181.21, 1181.25, 1349.16, 1509.07, 1509.225, 1510.09, 1514.04, 1707.03, 1901.31, 2335.25, 3351.07, 3767.41, 4303.293, and 5814.01; to amend, for the purpose of adopting new section numbers as indicated in parentheses, sections 1103.01 (1113.01), 1103.06 (1113.04), 1103.08 (1113.12), 1103.09 (1113.13), 1103.11 (1113.11), 1103.13 (1113.14), 1103.14 (1113.15), 1103.15 (1113.16), 1103.16 (1113.17), 1103.21 (1117.07), and 1113.01 (1113.02) and to enact new section 1121.52 and sections 1101.05, 1103.99, 1109.021, 1109.04, 1109.151, 1109.441, 1109.62, 1114.01, 1114.02, 1114.03, 1114.04, 1114.05, 1114.06, 1114.07, 1114.08, 1114.09, 1114.10, 1114.11, 1114.12, 1114.16, 1115.02, 1115.03, 1115.24, 1116.01, 1116.02, 1116.05, 1116.06, 1116.07, 1116.08, 1116.09, 1116.10, 1116.11, 1116.12, 1116.13, 1116.16, 1116.18, 1116.19, 1116.20, 1116.21, and 1121.19, and to repeal sections 1105.06, 1107.01, 1109.60, 1115.18, 1115.19, 1115.25, 1121.52, 1133.01, 1133.02, 1133.03, 1133.04, 1133.05, 1133.06, 1133.07, 1133.08, 1133.09, 1133.10, 1133.11, 1133.12, 1133.13, 1133.14, 1133.15, 1133.16, 1151.01, 1151.02, 1151.03, 1151.04, 1151.05, 1151.051, 1151.052, 1151.053, 1151.06, 1151.07, 1151.08, 1151.081, 1151.09, 1151.091, 1151.10, 1151.11, 1151.12, 1151.13, 1151.14, 1151.15, 1151.16, 1151.17, 1151.18, 1151.19, 1151.191, 1151.192, 1151.20, 1151.201, 1151.21, 1151.22, 1151.23, 1151.231, 1151.24, 1151.25, 1151.26, 1151.27, 1151.28, 1151.29, 1151.291, 1151.292, 1151.293, 1151.294, 1151.295, 1151.296, 1151.297, 1151.298, 1151.299, 1151.2910, 1151.2911, 1151.30, 1151.31, 1151.311, 1151.312, 1151.32, 1151.321, 1151.323, 1151.33, 1151.34, 1151.341, 1151.342, 1151.343, 1151.344, 1151.345, 1151.346, 1151.347, 1151.348, 1151.349, 1151.35, 1151.36, 1151.361, 1151.37, 1151.38, 1151.39, 1151.40, 1151.41, 1151.411, 1151.42, 1151.44, 1151.45, 1151.46, 1151.47, 1151.471, 1151.48, 1151.49, 1151.51, 1151.52, 1151.53, 1151.54, 1151.55, 1151.60, 1151.61, 1151.62, 1151.63, 1151.64, 1151.66, 1151.71, 1151.72, 1151.99, 1153.03, 1153.05, 1153.06, 1153.07, 1153.99, 1155.01, 1155.011, 1155.02, 1155.021, 1155.03, 1155.05, 1155.07, 1155.071, 1155.08, 1155.09, 1155.091, 1155.10, 1155.11, 1155.12, 1155.15, 1155.16, 1155.17, 1155.18, 1155.20, 1155.21, 1155.23, 1155.24, 1155.25, 1155.26, 1155.27, 1155.28, 1155.31, 1155.35, 1155.37, 1155.41, 1155.42, 1155.43, 1155.44, 1155.45, 1155.46, 1155.47, 1157.01, 1157.03, 1157.04, 1157.05, 1157.06, 1157.09, 1157.10, 1157.11, 1157.12, 1157.13, 1157.14, 1157.17, 1157.18, 1157.19, 1157.20, 1157.21, 1157.22, 1157.23, 1157.24, 1157.25, 1157.26, 1157.27, 1157.28, 1157.29, 1157.30, 1157.33, 1161.01, 1161.02, 1161.03, 1161.04, 1161.05, 1161.06, 1161.07, 1161.071, 1161.08, 1161.09, 1161.10, 1161.11, 1161.111, 1161.12, 1161.13, 1161.14, 1161.15, 1161.16, 1161.17, 1161.18, 1161.19, 1161.20, 1161.21, 1161.22, 1161.23, 1161.24, 1161.25, 1161.26, 1161.27, 1161.28, 1161.29, 1161.30, 1161.31, 1161.32, 1161.33, 1161.34, 1161.35, 1161.36, 1161.37, 1161.38, 1161.39, 1161.40, 1161.41, 1161.42, 1161.43, 1161.44, 1161.441, 1161.45, 1161.46, 1161.47, 1161.48, 1161.49, 1161.50, 1161.51, 1161.52, 1161.53, 1161.54, 1161.55, 1161.56, 1161.57, 1161.58, 1161.59, 1161.60, 1161.601, 1161.61, 1161.62, 1161.63, 1161.631, 1161.64, 1161.65, 1161.66, 1161.67, 1161.68, 1161.69, 1161.70, 1161.71, 1161.72, 1161.73, 1161.74, 1161.75, 1161.76, 1161.77, 1161.78, 1161.79, 1161.80, 1161.81, 1163.01, 1163.02, 1163.03, 1163.04, 1163.05, 1163.07, 1163.09, 1163.10, 1163.11, 1163.12, 1163.121, 1163.13, 1163.14, 1163.15, 1163.19, 1163.20, 1163.21, 1163.22, 1163.24, 1163.25, 1163.26, 1163.27, 1165.01, 1165.03, 1165.04, 1165.05, 1165.06, 1165.09, 1165.10, 1165.11, 1165.12, 1165.13, 1165.14, 1165.17, 1165.18, 1165.19, 1165.20, 1165.21, 1165.22, 1165.23, 1165.24, 1165.25, 1165.26, 1165.27, 1165.28, 1165.29, 1165.30, 1165.33, 1181.16, 1181.17, and 1181.18 of the Revised Code for the purpose of enacting a new banking law for the State of Ohio.

(Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, March 8, 2017, p. 217.)

Am. H. B. No. 39 – Representatives Arndt, Gavarone

Cosponsors: Representatives Anielski, Hambley, Bishoff, Carfagna

To enact section 505.872 of the Revised Code to authorize certain townships to require the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting property.

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, March 22, 2017, p. 261.)

Sub. H. B. No. 42 – Representatives Sprague, DeVitis

Cosponsor: Representative Seitz

To amend section 1345.99 and to enact section 1345.022 of the Revised Code to prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles.

(Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, May 10, 2017, p. 449.)

Sub. H. B. No. 50 – Representative Schaffer

Cosponsors: Representatives Roegner, Koehler, Retherford, McColley, Brenner, Conditt, Thompson, Becker, Wiggam, Riedel, Blessing, Henne, Dean, Seitz, Merrin, Goodman, LaTourette, Hambley, Antani, Young

To amend sections 4501.27, 5101.33, and 5101.542 and to enact section 5101.331 of the Revised Code to establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(Committee on Community and Family Advancement recommends substitute bill for passage, see House Journal, June 8, 2017, p. 543.)

Am. H. B. No. 51 – Representative Faber

Cosponsors: Representatives Becker, Brinkman, Butler, Dean, Dever, DeVitis, Green, Goodman, Hagan, Henne, Keller, Kick, Koehler, Lipps, Merrin, Retherford, Riedel, Roegner, Romanchuk, Scherer, Stein, Thompson, Vitale, Young

To amend section 117.46 and to enact sections 101.88, 101.881, 101.882, and 101.89 of the Revised Code to require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review.

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, May 16, 2017, p. 463.)

H. B. No. 58 – Representatives Brenner, Slaby

Cosponsors: Representatives Perales, Zeltwanger, Vitale, Hambley, Conditt, Young, Roegner, Riedel, Thompson, Dean, Cupp, Keller, Blessing

To amend section 3313.60 of the Revised Code to require instruction in cursive handwriting.

(Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development recommends passage, see House Journal, June 21, 2017, p. 567.)

H. B. No. 88 – Representative Anielski

Cosponsors: Representatives Patton, Roegner, Slaby, Howse, Celebrezze, Sykes, Green, Greenspan, DeVitis, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, West

To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.905 of the Revised Code to create the "Cuyahoga Valley Career Center" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, March 16, 2017, p. 248.)

H. B. No. 98 – Representatives Duffey, Boggs

Cosponsors: Representatives Miller, Bishoff, Dever, Dean, West, Seitz, Zeltwanger, Hood, Young, Stein, Lepore-Hagan, Romanchuk, Brenner

To amend section 3313.471 of the Revised Code regarding the presentation of career information to students.

(Committee on Education and Career Readiness recommends passage, see House Journal, October 11, 2017, p. 1088.)

Am. H. B. No. 104 – Representative Schaffer

Cosponsors: Representatives Henne, Boccheri, Seitz, Becker, Riedel, Hood, Brinkman, Stein, Bishoff, Dever, Brenner

To amend section 5739.121 of the Revised Code to allow vendors to receive a refund of sales tax remitted for bad debts on private label credit accounts when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit account lender.

(Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, April 26, 2017, p. 358.)

Am. H. B. No. 134 – Representatives Hambley, Kick

Cosponsors: Representatives Wiggam, Stein

To amend sections 307.283 and 5739.026 of the Revised Code to allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, May 16, 2017, p. 464.)

H. B. No. 135 – Representative Patmon

To enact section 5.49 of the Revised Code to designate June 12th as "Superman Day."

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, May 16, 2017, p. 465.)

H. B. No. 136 – Representative Arndt

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, Hughes, Lepore-Hagan, West

To enact sections 5534.802 and 5534.803 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 61 in Erie County as the "SGT David Sexton Memorial Highway" and a portion of Benton-Carroll Road in Ottawa County as "SGT Glen Millinger Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 1, 2017, p. 364.)

Am. H. B. No. 137 – Representative Kent

Cosponsors: Representatives Ashford, Miller, Clyde, Manning, Rezabek, Celebrezze, Rogers

To amend section 2151.421 of the Revised Code to make peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect and to expand the types of peace officers authorized to receive reports of child abuse and neglect.

(Committee on Criminal Justice recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, October 11, 2017, p. 1088.)

H. B. No. 140 – Representative Green

Cosponsors: Representatives Boccheri, Cera, Faber, Johnson, Lipps, Miller, Perales, Riedel, Rogers, Sheehy, Sprague, Sweeney, Greenspan, Hughes, Lepore-Hagan

To enact section 5534.78 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 32 in Brown and Highland Counties as the "Army Specialist Danny Raymond King Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 1, 2017, p. 365.)

H. B. No. 183 – Representative Perales

Cosponsors: Representatives Butler, Sweeney, Craig, Hambley, Boccheri, Riedel, Lipps, Rezabek, Seitz, O'Brien, Johnson, Lanese, Landis, Miller, Young

To enact section 4561.02 of the Revised Code to establish the Governing Board of the Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame and Learning Center for purposes of establishing the Hall and inducting persons into it.

(Committee on Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security recommends passage, see House Journal, June 8, 2017, p. 544.)

H. B. No. 202 – Representative Thompson

Cosponsors: Representatives Johnson, Ramos, Stein, Retherford, Arndt, Rogers, Duffey, Goodman, Riedel, Howse, Smith, K., Romanchuk, Greenspan, Lepore-Hagan, Conditt, Anielski, Hill, Miller, Bocchieri, Gavarone, Hambley, Scherer, Ginter, Sweeney, Sprague, West, Dean, Brenner, Kent, Cupp, Keller, Reece, Faber, Lanese, Landis, Young, Zeltwanger
To enact section 5.481 of the Revised Code to designate the first Saturday of May as "Veterans Suicide Awareness Day."

(Committee on Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security recommends passage, see House Journal, May 25, 2017, p. 516.)

H. B. No. 212 – Representative Householder

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Keller, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, Patton, Reece, West
To enact section 5534.801 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 16 in Coshocton County as the "Staff Sergeant Paul C. Mardis Jr. Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, May 24, 2017, p. 505.)

Am. H. B. No. 227 – Representative LaTourette

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Sheehy
To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.88 of the Revised Code to create the "Kenston Local Schools" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends amended bill for passage, see House Journal, June 8, 2017, p. 545.)

H. B. No. 229 – Representatives Romanchuk, Wiggam

Cosponsors: Representatives DeVitis, Thompson, Sprague, Patton, Reece, Kent, Smith, K., Brenner, Sweeney, Hambley
To enact section 5.261 of the Revised Code to designate February 3 as "Charles Follis Day."

(Committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, June 21, 2017, p. 571.)

H. B. No. 230 – Representatives Gonzales, Ginter

Cosponsors: Representatives Greenspan, Dean, Johnson, Bocchieri, Retherford, Hughes, Goodman, Antani
To amend sections 4781.40, 5301.072, 5311.191, and 5321.131 of the Revised Code to prohibit manufactured home park operators, condominium associations, neighborhood associations, and landlords from restricting the display of the thin blue line flag.

(Committee on Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor recommends passage, see House Journal, September 20, 2017, p. 1050.)

H. B. No. 244 – Representative Patterson

Cosponsors: Representatives Ramos, Sykes, Thompson, Kent, Antani, Antonio, Dever, Boyd, Patton, Gavarone, Sheehy, Sweeney, Bocchieri, Slaby, Roegner, Smith, K., Arndt, Miller, Lepore-Hagan, Ashford, Boggs, LaTourette, O'Brien, Sprague, Huffman, Johnson, Kick, Romanchuk

To enact section 5.236 of the Revised Code to designate the month of June as "Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month."

(Committee on Health recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1029.)

H. B. No. 257 – Representative Green

Cosponsors: Representatives Cera, Craig, Faber, Galonski, Greenspan, Hambley, Lepore-Hagan, Riedel, Rogers, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Smith, K., Sprague, Sweeney, Perales, West, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Kick

To enact section 5534.804 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of U.S. Route 68 in Brown County as the "Army Specialist David Lee Bingamon Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1031.)

H. B. No. 261 – Representatives Anielski, Roegner

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Lepore-Hagan, West

To amend sections 4501.21 and 4503.772 and to enact section 4503.875 of the Revised Code to create the Walsh Jesuit license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1031.)

H. B. No. 266 – Representative Roegner

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Greenspan, Sheehy, DeVitis, Hughes, Johnson, Lepore-Hagan, West

To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.907 of the Revised Code to create the "Twinsburg City Schools" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 13, 2017, p. 1031.)

H. B. No. 308 – Representative Cera

Cosponsors: Representatives Green, Sheehy, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, West

To enact section 5534.64 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 7 in Belmont County as the "Ohio Valley Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1063.)

H. B. No. 321 – Representatives Koehler, Green

Cosponsors: Representatives Goodman, Riedel, Brenner, Sweeney, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, West

To amend section 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.891 of the Revised Code to create the "Lions Club" license plate.

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1064.)

H. B. No. 324 – Representatives Ashford, Sheehy

Cosponsors: Representatives Cera, Leland, Romanchuk, Rogers, Sweeney, Thompson, Smith, K., Miller, Lepore-Hagan, West, Riedel, Patton, Boccieri, Strahorn, Clyde, Boggs, Celebrezze, Ingram, Kent, Huffman, Fedor, Patterson, Reece, Faber, Kelly, Craig, Antonio, Sykes, O'Brien, Young, Holmes, Ramos, Green, Greenspan, Householder, Hughes, Keller, Kick, Manning

To enact section 5534.48 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of Interstate Route 75 in Lucas County as the "Toledo Firefighters J. Dickman and S. Machcinski Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1064.)

H. B. No. 330 – Representative Rogers

Cosponsors: Representatives Ashford, Boggs, Celebrezze, Craig, Kelly, Kent, Lepore-Hagan, Miller, Patton, Ramos, Riedel, Romanchuk, Scherer, Smith, K., Sweeney, West, Green, Sheehy, Householder, Hughes, Johnson, Manning

To enact section 5534.494 of the Revised Code to designate a portion of State Route 91 in Willoughby as the "Patrolman Jason Gresko Memorial Highway."

(Committee on Transportation and Public Safety recommends passage, see House Journal, September 21, 2017, p. 1065.)

S. B. No. 18 – Senator Thomas

Cosponsors: Senators Eklund, Gardner, Beagle, Yuko, Sykes, Brown, Obhof, Coley, Uecker, Bacon, Balderson, Burke, Dolan, Hackett, Hite, Hoagland, Hottinger, Huffman, Jordan, Kunze, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Oelslager, Peterson, Schiavoni, Skindell, Tavares, Terhar, Williams, Wilson Representatives Hambley, Boyd, Carfagna

To enact section 5.291 of the Revised Code to designate September 12 as "Jesse Owens Day."

(House committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, April 25, 2017, p. 350.)

(Senate recommends passage, see Senate Journal, March 7, 2017, p. 201.)

(Senate committee on Government Oversight and Reform recommends passage, see Senate Journal, March 2, 2017, p. 181.)

S. B. No. 62 – Senator Yuko

Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Brown, Williams, Huffman, Hackett, Eklund, Tavares, Schiavoni, Beagle, Sykes, LaRose, Coley, Uecker, Skindell, Bacon, Balderson, Burke, Dolan, Gardner, Hite, Hoagland, Hottinger, Kunze, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Terhar, Wilson Representative Hambley

To enact section 5.236 of the Revised Code to designate July 8 as "Harrison Dillard Day."

(House committee on State and Local Government recommends passage, see House Journal, September 20, 2017, p. 1048.)

(Senate recommends passage, see Senate Journal, May 3, 2017, p. 372.)

(Senate committee on Government Oversight and Reform recommends passage, see Senate Journal, March 29, 2017, p. 300.)

Pending Matters

Am. Sub. H. B. No. 49 – Representative Smith, R. – et al.

To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs.

(Line item vetoes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 32, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47, see House Journal, July 6, 2017, p. 972.)

From: Max Behlke

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 4:04 PM

To: Rep76

Subject: NCSL Capitol to Capitol: After Budget, Next Steps for GOP Will Be More Taxing

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Oct. 16, 2017

In This Issue:

- **After Budget, Next Steps for GOP Will Be More Taxing**
- **What's in the Tax Plan?**
- **SALT Deduction on Chopping Block for Tax Reform**
- **Budget Deficit Grows to \$666 Billion in FY 2017**
- **DeVos Announces All Fall ESSA State Plan Submissions Approved for Peer Review**
- **Education Department Warns of New Cybersecurity Threats to Schools**
- **DOL Announces Members of the President's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion**
- **Health Care Subsidies Still in Limbo**
- **Supreme Court Preview Webinar**
- **Also of Note...**

After Budget, Next Steps for GOP Will Be More Taxing

Last Thursday, the Senate passed a budget resolution on a party-line vote (51-49) with every Republican voting "yes" with the exception of Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.), a fiscal hawk who explained that while he

supports tax cuts, he also believes that Congress should reduce federal spending and reform entitlement programs, such as Medicaid and Medicare. Unlike the House- passed budget resolution, which was revenue neutral, the Senate budget allows for tax cuts that reduce revenue and increase the deficit by \$1.5 trillion over a decade. The difference stems partly from how the House budget ties \$203 billion in spending cuts and other deficit-reducing maneuvers to offset revenue reductions, while the Senate budget has just one such offset, which generates federal revenue by potentially allowing the opening of Alaskan land to oil production.

This week, instead of both chambers conferencing to reconcile the differences with the two budgets, the House appears poised to adopt the Senate plan to accelerate the tax reform effort by two to three weeks. The director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Mick Mulvaney, said on Fox News Sunday that "we may save as many as 10 or 12 legislative days, which is a big deal. It sounds like it's not much, when you're only here in the end of October, but in the congressional calendars, that's a long time."

As soon as the House adopts the Senate budget, which could come as early as this week, House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) has indicated that he will release the text of the House Republican tax framework, which is rumored to be more than 1,000 pages long. After it is released, House leadership has indicated it plans to quickly vote and pass the tax legislation, as soon as the end of November, so there is little time for opposition voices to kill the effort. However, the legislation's fate in the Senate is anything but certain given that Republicans hold a slim 52-48 majority.

For instance, Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), has previously said he will not ultimately vote for a tax measure that adds to the deficit, which is what the Senate budget resolution would do. And the votes of Senators Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), and John McCain (R-Ariz.) will likely remain in doubt up until the final vote. The administration has been courting moderate Democrats, including Senators Heidi Heitkamp (N.D.), Joe Manchin (W.V.), and Joe Donnelly (Ind.), who all happen to be up for re-election next year in states where President Donald Trump won big in 2016.

Needless to say, passing the budget resolution will seem easy compared to what Republicans will face to get the tax legislation signed into law. Not to mention, Congress still has other items on its plate that it needs to address that may affect the tax reform effort. Notably, it will need to pass a spending bill by Dec. 8 or the government will shut down – a situation that will very likely be used as leverage in tax discussions. Stay tuned.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

What's in the Tax Plan?

While a tax bill has yet to be released in either chamber, rumors on Capitol Hill are swirling about what may be included in the legislation. Here is a very brief list of possible provisions that might be included in the possible 1,000-page tax bill:

- Eliminating or modifying the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction.
- Eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) that is currently levied on high-income individuals.
- Collapsing the existing seven individual income tax brackets into three with rates of 12, 25 and 35 percent.
- Adding a fourth bracket for individuals with a tax rate of 39.6 percent, or possibly 40 percent, for incomes over \$1 million.
- Capping annual contributions to at least some retirement accounts at \$2,400 a year
- Lowering the corporate tax rate to 20 percent.
- Creating a special 25 percent rate for "pass-through" businesses, such as partnerships and S-corporations.
- Allow businesses to write off 100 percent of their business investments, known as "expensing."

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

SALT Deduction on Chopping Block for Tax Reform

During the consideration of the budget resolution, West Virginia Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R) offered an amendment, that was ultimately adopted, that directed the tax writing committees to consider "reducing federal deductions, such as the state and local tax deduction" as part of tax reform. To be clear, the Capito amendment does not explicitly call for eliminating the SALT deduction, but the amendment's passage does indeed signal that the deduction is on the chopping block.

Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) was the only Republican to oppose Capito's amendment because he does not support any tax plan that will raise taxes on individuals. In an Oct. 4 op-ed in Breitbart, Paul wrote that "The problem comes because in [the GOP] plan they've eliminated the deductions many Americans take for their state and local taxes, and they've also eliminated the personal exemption. This could put many Americans in the \$50,000-\$200,000 range in a trap where their taxes would go up—some very significantly." Paul's vote signals that it will be politically difficult to remove any tax provision that could result in a tax increase for middleclass taxpayers.

Repealing the SALT deduction is estimated to raise \$1.3 trillion over 10 years. For that reason, it's key to helping offset the steep tax-rate reductions for businesses and individuals called for in the GOP tax framework. However, a full repeal of the deduction has faced strong opposition within the Republican conference, including from over two dozen members from high-tax states whose constituents would be adversely affected. To assuage these members, as well as the president who has expressed concern about how eliminating the deduction may raise taxes on the middle class, the Republicans have been discussing possible options short of full repeal, including:

- Imposing an income cap on the deduction, which some GOP House members envision as a way to protect middle-income taxpayers.
- A phased-down elimination of the deduction over a period of months or years.
- Allow individuals to keep deducting the cost of the property taxes they pay while eliminating the break for their other state and local taxes.

Read NCSL's Oct. 6 letter to Congress urging preservation of the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction in tax reform.

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

DYK? Martin Van Buren is the only U.S. president to learn English as their second language. Van Buren was born on Dec. 5, 1782 in Kinderhook, New York (about 20 miles south of Albany), to parents who were fifth generation Dutch. As a result, the Dutch language, which had prevailed for many generations in that part of New York state along the Hudson River, was the first language learned by the future president, who, perhaps ironically, was also the first president to be born a citizen of the United States and not a British subject.

Budget Deficit Grows to \$666 Billion in FY 2017

The U.S. Treasury Department reported last week that the federal government spent \$666 billion more than it collected in FY 2017, which ended on Sept. 30. The shortfall, which was the largest since 2013, was \$80 billion more than the previous fiscal year. By the numbers, the government spent a total of \$3.981 trillion, about 3.3 percent more than FY 2016, which is due in part by higher Social Security and Medicare spending as well as larger interest payments on the debt. At the same time, it took in \$3.315 trillion in tax receipts, up 1.5 percent from the previous year. As it currently stands, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has stated that within the next five years, the government will regularly be adding \$1 trillion to the

debt and interest payments on the debt are projected to triple as interest rates return to normal levels and that's before there are any changes to the tax code.

You can be sure that adding to the deficit will be fodder for the upcoming tax debate, considering that the Senate budget authorized tax cuts that would add \$1.5 trillion over 10 years and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget has estimated that the tax reform legislation will add \$2.2 trillion over the same time period. The chief of staff to the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), has stated that the increased debt could undercut the benefits of any tax changes because higher deficits means more borrowing by the federal government. And, the more the government borrows to fill the holes in the government's budget, some economists say it will increase borrowing costs for everyone, which would create a drag on the economy. As reported by Politico, the Tax Foundation disagrees with JCT "it's wrong about deficit-boosting tax cuts pushing up interest rates, and is therefore understating the benefits of cutting taxes."

NCSL Contacts: Max Behlke, Jake Lestock

DeVos Announces All Fall ESSA State Plan Submissions Approved for Peer Review

On Oct. 17, U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced that all second-round state plan submissions under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) are complete and ready for peer review. There were two deadlines for ESSA state plan submission—April and September of this year—and 16 states and the District of Columbia submitted plans back in April. Of these, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee and Vermont have been approved for implementation.

Michigan and Colorado have yet to receive the green light from DeVos. Colorado has until today to resubmit its state plan with adjusted school quality ratings and Michigan's plan is currently going through a second round of peer review with additional accountability criteria. The remaining 34 states and Puerto Rico have submitted their plans for the second round and, as DeVos announced, are set to advance to the peer review process. Experts and stakeholders will now examine the plans to be sure they're in compliance with the law, and ultimately offer notes and recommendations to the Secretary.

NCSL Contacts: Joan Wodiska, Lucia Bragg

Education Department Warns of New Cybersecurity Threats to Schools

On Oct. 16, the Education Department implored schools and higher education institutions to strengthen their cybersecurity protections following what they described as recent extortion threats made to

schools. Tina Rodrigue, adviser for cybersecurity for the department's Federal Student Aid Office, issued a memo to schools describing a "new threat, where the criminals are seeking to extort money from school districts and other educational institutions on the threat of releasing sensitive data from student records." These have included threats of violence and bullying directed at students if demands are not met. The memo provides information on how schools can improve cybersecurity measures as well as steps to take once a threat is received.

NCSL Contacts: Joan Wodiska, Lucia Bragg

DYK? In a nod to Colonel Sanders' World Famous recipe, KFC, the Louisville, Ky., based chicken restaurant chain, only follows 11 people on Twitter - the five "Spice" Girls and six men named "Herb."

DOL Announces Members of the President's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion

On Oct. 16, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the members of Trump's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion. The 20-member Task Force, includes South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Donohue. In June, Trump issued an executive order establishing the Task Force. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta will chair the task force, while U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross will serve as vice chairs. Shortly after the announcement, DeVos issued a statement expressing her interest in "working with state and local educators, business and industry leaders and other key stakeholders as we continue our work to put the needs of America's students and businesses first."

NCSL Contact: Jon Jukuri, Lucia Bragg

Health Care Subsidies Still in Limbo

After an announcement from the administration that they would no longer be making Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) payments, Congress re-engaged in legislation that would appropriate funding for them over the next two years. Trump initially signaled his support of Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Senator Patty Murray's (D-Wash.) work on bringing health care legislation to the floor that would address the CSR payments and also provide states more flexibility on 1332 waivers. Since then, the president along with Speaker of the House Paul Ryan said they could not support the legislation as currently drafted.

Alexander and Murray continue to pursue a deal on the legislation and acknowledged the concerns of lawmakers who do not want insurers to "double-dip" and receive duplicative payments if they've already raised premiums in response to CSR payments being cut off. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) recently signaled his willingness to bring this bill to the floor if they have the president's assurance that he will sign it.

NCSL Contact: Haley Nicholson

Supreme Court Preview Webinar

It is rare for the Supreme Court to have such an interesting docket so early in the term. But it is not rare that the interesting cases—including gerrymandering, public sector union dues, free speech and the free exercise of religion—affect states and local governments.

Join Todd Kim, District of Columbia solicitor, Ashley Johnson, Gibson Dunn, who co-wrote a merits brief on behalf of Governor Chris Christie in a sports gambling case, and Kevin Daley, Supreme Court reporter for the Daily Caller News Foundation, in a discussion of the most important cases, so far for states and local governments, to be decided in the Court's 2017 term.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2107

Time: 1 p.m. (ET)

Registration is required.

This is a FREE webinar, open to the public. If you're not available for this day and time, sign up anyway and you will receive a recording of the webinar. The SLLC will not apply for CLE credit in the 50 states for this event.

[Register here.](#)

DYK? On this day in 1981, the U.S. national debt crossed the \$1 trillion mark for the first time. When Ronald Reagan took office in January of that year, the gross domestic debt, as a percentage of the nation's annual income, had reached its lowest point since 1931: 32.5 percent. However, ever since, the national debt has soared and it now exceeds \$20 trillion.

Also of Note...

- The Senate is pushing ahead on a \$36.5 billion hurricane relief package that would give Puerto Rico a much-needed infusion of cash. The measure also would replenish rapidly

dwindling emergency disaster accounts and provide \$16 billion to permit the financially troubled federal flood insurance program to pay an influx of Harvey-related claims.

- A full investigation is underway surrounding the ambush attack in Niger that left four U.S. special forces dead and two others injured.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is backing off from changes regarding the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) after significant pushback from Midwestern GOP senators and a direct intervention from Trump.
- The Trump administration will make its official declaration of the opioid crisis as a national public health emergency, which will include an executive document directing federal agencies to take actions addressing the crisis, a massive advertising and public-relations campaign to reach Americans, and a request for funds from Congress.
- Federal Reserve Governor Jerome Powell is the leading candidate to become the chair of the U.S. central bank after Trump concluded a series of meetings with five finalists Thursday. Also, Janet Yellen left the White House last Thursday afternoon following a meeting with Trump about her possible reappointment as Fed chair.
- Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) roasted Trump at the annual Al Smith dinner in New York on Thursday night, joking about how he copes with the president's use of Twitter.

Read the Oct. 16 Capitol-to-Capitol.

- Have ideas or suggestions for how Capitol-to-Capitol can be improved? Please take two minutes to let us know in this very short survey!
- We are always looking for interesting trivia about states, legislatures and American history. If you have some great facts, don't keep them to yourself. Let us know by clicking here. We will likely include them in a future edition of Capitol to Capitol!

If you have comments or suggestions regarding Capitol-to-Capitol, please contact Max Behlke.

[Read More](#)

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OHIO REPORT TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Gun Notification Bill Among Five Measures To Clear House

Rosenberger Weighs Bid For State Auditor's Office

Senators Lower Cost Caps, Shorten Lifespan In Latest ZEN Bill Changes

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Distracted Driving, Records Exemption Bills Could See Floor Amendments

Educators Denounce Efforts To Ban Common Core, Other Various K-12 Laws

Additional Oversight Of Property Value Complaints Proposed

ACLU, Disability Advocates Speak Out On Measure To Curtail ADA Lawsuits

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Volume #86, Report #205 -- Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Gun Notification Bill Among Five Measures To Clear House

A controversial bill that drew opposition from both law enforcement and a gun owners group cleared the House on Tuesday.

The legislation (HB 142) approved on a 69-24 vote modifies the notification requirements of concealed handgun licensees during interactions with law enforcement officials and drastically reduces penalties for failure to do so.

"There is simply no reason to bring down the heavy legal hammer on the heads of concealed handgun license holders," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster).

The measure was originally intended to eliminate the requirement that concealed handgun licensees notify law enforcement of their status during interactions.

However, the bill was modified in the House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee to require a licensee to provide the disclosure when asked for a driver's license or state identification card.

The original version of the bill also sought to remove any criminal penalties for failure to comply with the notification requirement. The substitute version, however, caps the fine for failure to comply at \$25 and removes the possibility of having a concealed handgun license suspended.

Those changes led to opposition from members of Ohioans for Concealed Carry. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 19, 2017)

Prior to the changes, the bill had also come under fire from law enforcement groups. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 23, 2017)

Rep. Wiggam said current law is "ambiguous, arbitrarily enforced and carries the most draconian penalties in the nation."

He said a major problem with the current law is the requirement for "prompt" notification. Rep. Wiggam said in one case, a man notified a law enforcement officer 51 seconds after first contact during a traffic stop.

"That wasn't fast enough. He was still charged," he said.

The changes made to the bill were done in conjunction with Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald), a co-sponsor of the measure. He said he saw an opportunity to refine the language in the bill and make it better.

Rep. Holmes said the changes moved the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association from an opponent to neutral. The Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio is still opposed, he said.

"I think they misinterpreted the spirit and intentions of this law," Rep. Holmes said.

In a question to Rep. Wiggam, Rep. Stephanie Howse (D-Cleveland) asked whether there had been any consultation with black or Hispanic firearm owners. In raising the question, she noted that Philando Castile was licensed to carry a concealed firearm when he was shot and killed by a police officer during a traffic stop outside of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

"This law would make it very clear who and when and how you are to present when you have a concealed carry license," Rep. Wiggam said.

The House also passed a bill (HB 168) to modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration in an 80-2 vote. Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Nino Vitale (R-Urbana) cast the lone "no" votes.

Sponsoring Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) said the legislation has the backing of the Ohio Township Association, the Ohio Cemetery Association, the Ohio Funeral Directors Association and the Department of Commerce.

"There's no known opposition to this bill," he said.

Another measure (HB 251) increases from five to 10 years the maturity period of political subdivision bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund. It was unanimously approved.

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) said the bill will boost revenue in large counties by as much as \$400,000 per year. Nonetheless, he urged lawmakers to do more to help local governments financially.

"We could do more for local government, and we should do more for local governments," he said.

Also approved unanimously was a bill (SB 3) to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week and legislation (HB 194) to establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards.

Rosenberger Weighs Bid For State Auditor's Office

Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) currently has a clear path to the general election in his bid to become Ohio's next auditor.

That path, however, could soon include at least one major hurdle if term-limited Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) decides to enter the race.

"It's something I'm seriously considering," he said Tuesday after the House session.
(See separate story)

Speaker Rosenberger said he intended to make a decision about entering the race "in the next few weeks."

"Over the course of the last few weeks, I've had a lot of conversations from a lot of folks across the state and I've been very humbled and I appreciate their calls and I'm seriously considering it at this point," he said.

After two terms leading the House, Mr. Rosenberger said he had contemplated returning to Clinton County to run for a seat on the board of commissioners. However, he said he has been encouraged to get in the race to replace Auditor Dave Yost, who is running for Attorney General.

"I'm very humbled and I'm very honored for the amount of calls I've been receiving...from county auditors across the state that have had a conversation with me," Speaker Rosenberger said.

If he does enter the race, Mr. Rosenberger said he intends to focus on helping local governments in being more efficient and effective, which he believes would be an extension of his work in the House.

"I enjoy working with local governments," he said. "I think out of all the statewide offices, the position of auditor is probably the one that gets the opportunity to work closest with township trustees and villages and cities and school boards all across our state."

Rep. Faber called the development "interesting."

"It's a little late to jump in here in the last minute," he said in an interview, noting that he has been campaigning for about a year now.

The former president of the Senate said his long legislative record that includes efforts to increase transparency and make public records more readily available and on issues such as tax and regulatory changes will help him to stand out in a potential primary race with the speaker.

"My entire legislative career has been focused on making things work better," he said.

If he enters the race, Mr. Rosenberger would have some catching up to do in fundraising compared to Rep. Faber, according to semi-annual campaign finance reports filed with the secretary of state's office.

As of July 31, Rep. Faber's campaign had \$789,645 in its war chest. Mr. Rosenberger's campaign had \$354,514 on hand, and it's unclear how much of that was raised on behalf of the House GOP caucus.

Former U.S. Rep. Zack Space is the lone declared candidate on the Democratic side.

Senators Lower Cost Caps, Shorten Lifespan In Latest ZEN Bill Changes

Lawmakers on Tuesday made more changes to a controversial nuclear cost recovery bill, shortening the lifespan of the proposed zero-nuclear emission credits program and lowering cost caps.

The changes were made in a substitute bill (SB 128) adopted by the Senate Public Utilities Committee during the fourth hearing on the measure, which would benefit FirstEnergy's two nuclear plants.

"These are pretty significant changes that acknowledge some of the concerns that have been posed to us over the last several months," co-sponsor Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said.

But opponents remain staunchly opposed. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council and the Environmental Law and Policy Center submitted new written opponent testimony for the committee's review.

"Subsidizing these 'losers' undermines a wholesale market that has been delivering low prices and reliable power to Ohioans for years," Madeline Fleisher of the ELPC wrote. "Further changes to this bill don't change that fact. They may lessen the harm to customers, but they can't fix the basic problem that Ohioans are being asked to pay more without getting more."

A comparison document showing the substitute bill's changes in detail is still being drafted, but the substantive changes as described by Sen. Eklund include:

- Reducing the ZEN program's lifespan to a 12-year program - down from the originally proposed 16 years - to expire Dec. 31, 2030.
- Fixing residential customer charges to be charged through a nonbypassable rider to \$2.50 per month. The bill previously called for charges no greater than 5% of a customer's monthly bill - or about \$5 per month.
- Reducing nonbypassable charges on non-residential customers from 5% of their monthly bill to the lesser of 5% of their monthly bill or \$3,500.

Watchers of the energy space may recognize several of those provisions as similar to components of other legislation (HB 239 & SB 155) intended to grant cost recovery to utility owners of the Ohio Valley Electric Corp. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 23, 2017)

"It certainly appears proponents have looked at the OVEC legislation and endeavored to have the program look similar to the OVEC program," Chairman Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) said in an interview. "I think we'll have to see if that improves its likelihood of passage or not."

Still, the chairman said the timeline for a committee vote remains elusive. He has yet to gauge the full committee's temperature on the bill or that of the Republican caucus for that matter, he said. And he expressed a desire to coordinate on pending energy bills with the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

"I think we may be reaching the point where the bill is going to be what it is and I don't know if you're going to see significant changes to it in which case then it might be the time for the committee to finally make a decision on it," Sen. Beagle said. "I don't know if there will be further changes in 128...but we might need to look and see and start counting votes."

Meanwhile, opponents are seizing on recent developments at the federal level in an effort to sow further questions about whether the bill is needed.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission continues exploring its grid resiliency pricing rule, which Energy Secretary Rick Perry is pushing to help older coal and nuclear plants compete with their younger gas counterparts. If that rule proceeds, opponents say, state action is unwarranted. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 23, 2017)

"The Ohio General Assembly should defer to federal and regional forums for this issue and not enact this bill and any related bills for subsidizing nuclear power plants," OCC Bruce Weston wrote in his testimony. "Whether or not there is new federal support for the operations of coal and nuclear plants, Ohioans should not be asked to pay on a single state basis for what is, if anything, a regional or national issue for these uneconomic power plants."

Added Leigh Herington of NOPEC: "It would be particularly unwise public policy for the Ohio Legislature to act before the FERC concludes a rulemaking that, if promulgated, could spread the cost of any nuclear subsidy over tens of millions of customers in the entire 13 states (plus District of Columbia) PJM footprint, instead of only the captive Ohio electric customers served by the FE Ohio utilities."

Sens. Eklund and Beagle both said they aren't buying that argument.

"If they can point me to something that suggests FERC is required to do what Rick Perry tells them to and that they will do it and they will do it soon and it will work I guess I'd be eager to see it," Sen. Eklund said.

And Sen. Beagle pointed to federal inaction in the areas of healthcare and tax policy as a counterpoint to opponents' perspective.

"From my individual perspective we can't just wait for Washington to do stuff," Sen. Beagle said. "If we have to wait for Washington to make decisions on all these key areas we may as well go home."

Distracted Driving, Records Exemption Bills Could See Floor Amendments

A Senate panel on Tuesday opted to move forward with two bills that Democrats said they'd like to see amended before a full chamber vote.

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland), chairman of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee, told members who sought changes to public records exemption and distracted driving bills that he would take their concerns back to his caucus.

Instead of delaying the bills in committee, members advanced them after the chairman suggested modifications could be made on the Senate floor Wednesday if they're on the agenda.

The measures at hand would exempt from public records law certain information concerning minors involved in a school vehicle accident (HB 8) and would establish an enhanced penalty for distracted driving if an officer witnesses the offense during the enforcement of a primary offense (HB 95).

The latter is one of a handful of efforts in recent years to curb distracted driving that stakeholders say has become more prevalent in recent years with the advent of new technology and social media.

Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Hubbard) said he intended to bring up an amendment on behalf of his caucus leaders that would stiffen license suspensions if distracted driving is determined to be a factor in a vehicular manslaughter or homicide. The change would result in offenders in such cases losing their licenses for up to three years.

Ultimately, he said he didn't propose the amendment because of the chairman's offer to take the issue to his caucus for discussion of a floor amendment.

The chairman made the same offer to Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati), who said he'd be interested in proposing amendments to the public records bill suggested by the Ohio News Media Association.

Without those changes, which among other things would redact personal information of minors involved in school vehicle accidents only on internet reports, Sen. Thomas cast the sole vote against the bill.

Dennis Hetzel, ONMA president and executive director, called for a handful of changes to the bill in opponent testimony.

He suggested the committee also provide a journalist exception to the bill, citing the information's potential importance to newsgathering, and amend the proposed medical records definition to specify which records would be closed to the public.

He also asked that the bill be returned to its form before a substitute bill focusing on HIPAA was approved last month. The language that was added could leave which records are open up for debate, he said.

Responding to a question from Sen. Uecker, Mr. Hetzel said news organizations would not be able to appeal to courts that records sealed under the bill be open.

Tuesday marked the second time Mr. Hetzel testified on the legislation, which he deemed unnecessary.

"The need for HB8 is unsupported by factual evidence or even anecdotal concerns sufficient to overcome the strong presumption of openness in our public records law," he said. "It also will set a distressing precedent that undermines settled law that initial police incident reports, such as reports of traffic accidents, should be open."

Currently, children's personal information becomes available as part of a police report if they're involved in a school bus accident. Proponents of the bill argue those details could be improperly accessed by solicitors, pedophiles or identity thieves.

Educators Denounce Efforts To Ban Common Core, Other Various K-12 Laws

Educators on Tuesday defended the state's learning standards and testing in response to a bill seeking to ban standards derived from Common Core and eliminate a number of K-12 requirements.

The measure (HB 176), which would also revamp state exams and do away with teacher and principal evaluation systems as well as graduation requirements, would "move us backwards," said Melissa Cropper, president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

While Common Core, which has been revised and rebranded as Ohio's Learning Standards, was controversial in the early days of implementation, opponents to the bill say the initiative focused on deeper learning is now a beneficial part of the state's education plan.

Those opinions stand in contrast to that of a dozen parents and teachers who took part in a four-hour hearing on the bill in May. They backed the measure, arguing it would allow for more flexibility in Ohio's schools. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2017)

Under the bill, the State Board of Education would be required to adopt English and math standards that were in place in Massachusetts prior to 2010.

"Changing the standards again, especially going backwards to standards written by another state and since discarded would only move us backwards by throwing another disruption in the learning process," Ms. Cropper told the House Education & Career Readiness Committee.

"Instead of changing standards again and spending the time to learn and implement the new standards, our teachers need to be focused on continuing to develop more teaching strategies, working with each other on best practices for teaching current standards, sharing data and discussing ways to move student achievement forward, bringing in community resources to both address student needs and to enhance the curriculum," she added.

Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville), who suggested that Massachusetts changed its standards to receive federal funding, said much of his concern with the current standards is that they result in "teaching to the test."

That would likely be a concern under any set of standards, Ms. Cropper said, suggesting the education discussions that should really be happening are how instruction is driven and tests are used.

Meanwhile, Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) said his worry is that changing standards through the bill would set back student learning while schools and teachers get readjusted.

"I always have a concern if we change standards. A child's education doesn't pause until we come up with the new standards," he said.

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) said the limited time students are in school is the reason he wants to see the standards changed as soon as possible.

Based on the fact the state has had to ease graduation requirements for this year's seniors and give schools safe harbor on report cards, he said the new standards don't appear to be improving student learning.

"I don't understand how far we go with Common Core before we decide the needle is not moving forward," he said.

Ms. Cropper disagreed that the standards aren't pushing students to deeper levels of learning in math and English. She said those payoffs will show when students are better able to comprehend higher levels of those subjects in the future.

She also clarified that the standards have been revised and "they may look similar to Common Core but they're Ohio's learning standards."

Char Shryock, director of curriculum for Bay Village City Schools explained the extensive revision process the state's math and ELA standards recently went through.

The year-long process involved panels of teachers, parents and content experts who ensured standards were tailored to fit individual grade levels and exams, she said. Teachers are now beginning to implement the changes in their classrooms.

"Ohio districts have spent hundreds of thousands of hours over the past seven years selecting, creating, and implementing instructional materials that are based on our Ohio Learning Standards. Ohio districts have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on purchasing instructional materials and providing teachers with collaborative time and ongoing professional development to best utilize these resources," she said.

"Suggesting that we should now walk back all of that work and instead begin the process of implementing a completely new set of standards that were developed with no input from Ohio educators, parents and community members is not in the best interest of Ohio's students."

Responding to questions from Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) about how the standards, particularly for math, play out in curriculum and on tests, Ms. Shryock said she attributes much of the public disapproval of Common Core stems from misinformation.

The standards require only that students learn how to complete certain math problems through multiple methods, not that they use particular methods.

"That misconception has led to a lot of the concern in our state. Where it comes from has been poorly developed curriculum materials that came out, especially in 2010," she said.

Now that the standards have been in place for seven years, instruction and course materials have improved, she said, reiterating that "these are Ohio's standards at this point."

Chad Aldis, vice president for Ohio policy and advocacy at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, also pointed to a handful of reasons moving to another state's former standards wouldn't benefit Ohio. Of note is that they wouldn't line up to proposed exams, which were used in Iowa prior to 2010, he said.

"Meaning Ohio would administer assessments that aren't aligned to the standards its teachers would be teaching," he added in prepared testimony.

The tests are also norm-referenced, which would be a departure from the criterion-referenced tests the state has long used to gauge student performance, Mr. Aldis said. The former type of exams rank students based on how they perform on tests compared to other students as opposed to a set benchmark.

"Do we really want the scores of these tests to be based on what other students know, instead what our students should know? Comparing students is useful, but it doesn't offer a complete picture," he said.

Mr. Aldis also challenged plans to no longer require high school students to meet certain requirements set at the state level to graduate.

"At a time when thousands of jobs are sitting vacant because there aren't enough qualified applicants, more and more young people can't meet the military's enlistment requirements, and too few Ohio graduates are prepared to take college level courses without remediation, can we really say no requirements for graduation is in the best interest of our young people?" he said.

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Philanthropy Ohio, Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Ohio Parent-Teacher Association also submitted written testimony opposing the legislation.

Subscribers Note: Complete testimony is available on the committee's website under Oct. 24.

Additional Oversight Of Property Value Complaints Proposed

A House committee got its first look Tuesday at a bill Rep. Derek Merrin said will restore accountability to complaints made to boards of revision.

The Maumee Republican's bill (HB 343) would require local governing bodies - such as school boards - to pass resolutions authorizing individual complaints filed by their attorneys in an effort to contest real property assessments.

"It is my understanding some attorneys effectively have free reign to file complaints at their own discretion or with loose guidance, but without appropriate oversight of the legislative authority," Rep. Merrin said during the bill's first hearing before the House Ways & Means Committee.

Still, some groups representing local government entities - the Ohio School Boards Association for one - argue the process is best left to local discretion. Jennifer Hogue, director of legislative services for the OSBA, said the process varies by school district and that some install parameters around what should trigger a challenge.

"It is our understanding that district boards typically provide authorization for staff to handle these challenges as is the case with other administrative and fiscal accountability functions," Ms. Hogue said. "One reason boards prefer staff to handle property valuation challenges is to avoid the appearance of elected boards playing favorites by picking and choosing the property values that are challenged. Permitting staff to handle the challenges allows the board to focus their time on governing the district and meeting the needs of the students they serve."

But Rep. Merrin said he believes that in some cases governing boards aren't aware of complaints being filed by their attorneys. His bill requires each resolution to appear on the board's meeting agenda and to be voted on. In doing so, he said, board members would no longer have plausible deniability and would be fully informed about pending complaints.

Still, he said the practice isn't exactly widespread. "The vast majority of school districts, the vast majority of cities don't do this," he said. "We're dealing with a very small group."

The bill also requires advance written notice to be provided to the property owner in question. Currently, he said, property owners are only notified after a complaint is filed.

"By providing notice, property owners would have the opportunity to express their opinion with their local, elected officials before they vote to authorize a BOR complaint," Rep. Merrin said. "Ohioans have a fundamental right to be properly notified, especially when legislative action is planned against their property."

Responding to Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab), Rep. Merrin said that although the complaint process is ideally meant to arrive at the true and fair value of land, it doesn't always play out that way in practice.

"I've never heard of someone filing a complaint to lower someone's property value," Rep. Merrin said. "When you have entities only trying to go one direction, only trying to increase (values), their intent is not about fairness."

Adding to his concerns, Rep. Merrin said, is that property owners likely aren't familiar with the boards of revision or the complaint process. Instead, they receive a notice one day from a "high-powered attorney" that can be intimidating.

"It's important to realize not all Ohioans have the capacity to stand toe to toe with a very experienced attorney making hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars a year specializing (in these complaints)," Rep. Merrin told Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton).

Chairman Rep. Tim Schaffer (R-Lancaster) questioned whether elected officials in these cases are ignorant of the complaints because of the system or because they weren't paying attention in their elected roles.

"Is there any way other than hearing from that property owner I'm going to know this (complaint is happening)?" Rep. Schaffer asked. "Nobody on the school board has signed anything? It hasn't come across their desks?"

"That really gets to the genesis of what I'm concerned about: that elected officials are not aware of the actions their attorneys are taking," Rep. Merrin answered.

ACLU, Disability Advocates Speak Out On Measure To Curtail ADA Lawsuits

A bill proponents say will protect businesses from predatory lawsuits filed for minor or technical violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act was met with derision Tuesday.

Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist at the ACLU of Ohio, told members of the House Civil Justice Committee that the legislation (HB 271) "rewards those who violate and ignore disability access laws at the expense of the wounded veteran, the elderly relative, and the ailing neighbor."

"It does this by imposing various mandates upon those the laws are meant to protect, even when they face the most egregious, numerous, and pervasive violations of disability laws," he said.

Mr. Daniels said under the bill, victims can be denied attorneys' fees despite winning lawsuits and business owners would be provided with up to seven months to correct violations.

Mark Seifarth, chair of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, told members of the panel that technical violations can prevent a person with a disability from "fully participating in the course of business."

"I humbly submit to this committee the idea that while some of these suits may seem outrageous or overly technical, the parameters that have been created are there for a reason," he said.

As an alternative to the legislation, Mr. Seifarth suggested lawmakers provide businesses with incentives to come into compliance with the ADA.

"Rather than eliminate the 'stick,' as it were, of enforcement, we would hope the legislature would look at how to provide some 'carrots' and other supports for businesses to come into compliance, without undermining the legal rights of individuals with disabilities," he said.

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) asked about the kind of "carrots" the state could provide to business owners.

Mr. Seifarth said additional tax credits could be provided to businesses that experience a hardship through ADA compliance.

Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton), a sponsor of the bill, then asked if the window to cure a problem was reduced from 90 to 60 days - as was done through an amendment offered by fellow sponsoring Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) - would improve the legislation.

"That would be really helpful in moving in that direction," Mr. Seifarth said.

Another amendment offered by Rep. McColley clarified that existing housing discrimination laws are not included in the notification requirement provision of the bill.

"This was something that the Ohio Civil Rights Commission brought to us," Rep. McColley said.

Valerie Novack, disability rights advocate at the Ability Center of Greater Toledo, said in northwest Ohio "frivolous" ADA lawsuits are few and far between due to the fact that the ADA does not allow plaintiffs to collect damages.

"Meritless lawsuits and unethical lawyers should be combatted without making changes to civil rights enforcements that are necessary to ensure full inclusion for all people," she said.

Derek Mortland, ADA and community outreach coordinator for the Center for Disability Empowerment, said "it is shameful that this legislation would give businesses a civil rights compliance loophole."

"What if a business decided to put a No Blacks or No Jews Allowed sign on their front door? Would an aggrieved minority have to wait 60-90 days before that sign was taken down? Would they first have to notify the business that the sign was offensive to them?" he asked.

Dr. Kara Ayers of the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities also provided written opponent testimony.

Democrats Propose Single-Payer Health Care System

A pair of House Democrats on Tuesday announced legislation to create a single-payer health care system for Ohio, with the goal of increasing access to care and reducing costs.

The proposal, known as the Ohio Health Security Act, would likely be largely funded by payroll taxes and would be run by an Ohio Health Care Agency.

The plan's sponsors, Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) and Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) said at a news conference that the plan would allow Ohioans to choose their doctors and providers, and provide a public funding mechanism for health care.

"Politicians are not paying attention. Health care systems are not paying attention," Rep. Fedor said. "They do not care about the health and well-being of our American citizens."

A similar proposal (SB 91) has been offered in the Senate and is currently before the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee. Republicans in that committee questioned the proposal's funding mechanisms and whether it would lower health care costs. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 28, 2017)

The board administering the program would seek waivers, exemptions, agreements and legislation to allow federal and state health care payments to be made to the system, such as Medicare and Medicaid, Rep. Fedor said. If the waivers can't be acquired,

Medicaid and Medicare would be considered primary insurers, with the plan as the secondary insurer.

A technical and medical advisory board, consisting of health care providers and consumers, would assist the main board, and there would be a division of consumer affairs to help individuals, she said.

"This will be a consumer-driven marketplace," she said.

Rep. Kent said regional boards will administer the program, and the bill would cover necessary medical, vision, dental and mental health care services.

"We, as a legislative body, need to declare through our votes that all people of Ohio are worth saving," she said.

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said after the House's session that he is not yet familiar with the legislation. Nonetheless, he predicted that it will not be well received in a chamber dominated by Republicans.

Deb Silverstein, state director for the Single Payer Action Network of Ohio, said an economic impact study is expected to be done in March. In other states, she said, the studies have anticipated funding it mostly through payroll taxes. In Pennsylvania, the estimate was a 10% payroll tax on employers and 3% on individuals.

That overall tax payment would often be lower than what businesses and individuals currently pay in insurance premiums, she said.

"One of the things that people have to understand is that we are already paying, through taxes, about two thirds of the health care costs in this nation," she said. The other third is often coverage of healthy people.

The proposal's supporters said there would be other benefits. Untethering health insurance coverage from jobs would allow people more flexibility in finding work, said Dr. Kathy Lambes, who works in a community health center in Dayton.

"We tell people to live the American dream and move up in the world, then immediately take that away by giving them private insurance that doesn't cover what they need," she said. "People have no economic mobility because they get tied down to a job for their health care. My patients can't go back to school because they're worried about losing their health care."

Reducing the overall cost of providing health care could free up money in other aspects of government, Ms. Silverstein said.

"When you're looking at your cities and counties, some of the money they're spending on health care prevents some of the work that their cities and counties could be providing," she said.

Rep. Fedor said she was hopeful people would support the bill and urge their representatives to do the same.

"It's time and we're going to allow the people to speak and drive this conversation, drive this bill to its conclusion and convince the powers that be here and all of their supporters to do this," she said. "It's going to be a battle, no question, but it's time and we need to be released and set free from this bondage."

Governor's Appointments

Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission: Charles T. "Chip" McConville of Mt. Vernon for a term beginning October 23, 2017, and ending August 21, 2021.

Eastern Gateway Community College Board of Trustees: JoAnn M. LaGuardia of Poland for a term beginning October 24, 2017, and ending October 16, 2022.


Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2017-037. Requested by Clermont County Prosecuting D. Vincent Faris.
SYLLABUS:

1. The positions of Director of the Clermont County Department of Community and Economic Development and member or Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau are incompatible.
2. The positions of Assistant Director of the Clermont County Department of Community and Economic Development and member or Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau are incompatible when the Assistant Director serves as the acting Director in the Director's absence and prepares and administers the annual budget of the Department, or when one of the assigned duties of the Assistant Director is assisting in the preparation of the annual budget of the Department.

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, October 25

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

- HB 191** **NURSE ANESTHETISTS** (Gonzales, A.) Regarding the practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists. (2nd Hearing-Possible substitute)
- HB 345** **DISEASE CURES** (Butler, J.) To adopt the Solemn Covenant of the States to award prizes for curing diseases. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 214** **ABORTION** (LaTourette, S., Merrin, D.) To prohibit a person from performing, inducing, or attempting to perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman who is seeking the abortion because an unborn child has or may have Down Syndrome. (4th Hearing-Possible vote)
- HB 172** **MEDICAL RECORDS** (Schuring, K.) To modify the laws governing access to a patient's medical records. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)
- HB 273** **ADMITTING PRIVILEGES** (Gavarone, T.) To prohibit a physician from being required to secure a maintenance of certification as a condition of obtaining licensure, reimbursement, or employment or obtaining admitting privileges or surgical privileges at a hospital or health care facility. (3rd Hearing-Opponent and Interested party)

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 9 a.m.

- SB 77** **LICENSE PLATE** (Coley, B.) To create the "KylerStrong Foundation" license plate. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 250** **ELECTRIC BICYCLES** (Brinkman, T.) To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)
- HB 313** **LICENSE PLATE** (Hughes, J.) To create the "Pelotonia" license plate. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HR 236** **HYPERLOOP** (Hughes, J.) To express support for the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 270** **ROAD NAMING** (Smith, K., Rogers, J.) To designate a portion of I-271 in Cuyahoga County as the "Captain Michael Palumbo Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 83** **OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR** (Smith, K., Howse, S.) To designate the planned boulevard known as the Opportunity Corridor within Cleveland as the "Carl and Louis Stokes Opportunity Corridor." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- HB 264** **LICENSE PLATE** (Roegner, K.) To create the "Hudson City Schools" license plate. (2nd Hearing-Interested party-Possible vote)

HB 265 **LICENSE PLATE (Roegner, K.)** To create the "Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools" license plate. (2nd Hearing-Interested party-Possible vote)
House Aging & Long Term Care (Committee Record) (Chr. Arndt, S., 644-6011), Rm. 116, 9 a.m.

HB 286 **PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.)** To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 362 **HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.)** To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

SB 181 **GARBAGE FEES (O'Brien, S.)** To authorize all municipal corporations that charge a garbage collection fee to certify unpaid amounts to the county auditor, who must enter the fees on the property tax list to be collected in the same manner as real property taxes. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 9:30 a.m.

HB 312 **POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.)** Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

HJR 4 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

- The panel will consider governor's appointments of Marcella Boyd Cox to the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, and Pandora Shaw Dupras, Matthew Rubin and Pamela Steurer to the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

SB 201 **PRISON TERMS (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.)** To provide for indefinite prison terms for first or second degree felonies and specified third degree felonies, with presumptive release of offenders sentenced to such a term at the end of the minimum term; to generally allow the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to reduce the minimum term for exceptional conduct or adjustment to incarceration; to allow the Department to rebut the release presumption and keep the offender in prison up to the maximum term if it makes specified findings; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 202 **OFFENDER RE-ENTRY (Bacon, K., O'Brien, S.)** To require the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction to establish a reentry program for all offenders released from prison who it intends to have reside in a halfway house or similar facility but who are not accepted by any such facility; to require the Adult Parole Authority to establish maximum work-load and case-load standards for its parole and field officers and have enough trained officers to comply with the standards; to require that GPS monitoring used for offenders released from prison under such monitoring specify restrictions, including inclusionary zones and necessary exclusionary zones; to require the Department to establish system requirements for GPS monitoring of such offenders by the Department or third-party contract administrators; to require the Department to operate a statewide database for law enforcement use containing specified information about such offenders; to require that third-party administrators for GPS monitoring under a new contract with the Department provide and use a law enforcement-accessible crime scene correlation program; and to name the act's provisions the Reagan Tokes Law. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 206 **ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS (Huffman, M.)** To enact the Ohio Citizen Participation Act to provide protections to persons who engage in certain specified protected communications and to protect the identity of persons who anonymously engage in online communications under certain circumstances. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 139 **LEGAL MATERIALS (Skindell, M., Eklund, J.)** To adopt the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

HB 66 **TENURED FACULTY (Young, R.)** To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of

undergraduate courses per semester. (4th Hearing-Interested Party-Possible amendments)

HB 240 **MONTH DESIGNATION (Barnes, J.)** To enact the "Respect Your Date Act" to designate the month of April as "Respect Your Date Month" and to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus and to declare an emergency. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 363 **CAMPUS SPEECH (Goodman, W., Brenner, A.)** To enact the "Campus Free Speech Act" with respect to the freedom of speech and assembly at state institutions of higher education and the charging and allocation of student activity fees. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11:30 a.m.

Canceled: House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

- **If needed**

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Senate Energy & Natural Resources (Committee Record) (Chr. Balderson, T., 466-8076), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session

SB 95 **PIPING MATERIALS (Terhar, L.)** To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 3 p.m.

HB 119 **SNAP (Henne, M., McColley, R.)** Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 309 **PARENTAL RIGHTS (Gonzales, A., Rezabek, J.)** To generally prohibit a person's blindness from being used to deny or limit custody, parenting time, visitation, adoption, or service as a guardian or foster caregiver, regarding a minor. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 126 **KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (Boyd, J., Rezabek, J.)** To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator program. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 340 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Young, R.)** Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical assistance recipients. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 70 **CHILD SUPPORT (Coley, B.)** To amend the child support laws. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 9 a.m. (The Governance Committee will meet 9-9:30 a.m.; the Audit Committee 9:30-11:15 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 11:15-a.m.-Noon; the Investment Committee 1-3

p.m.; and the Medical Services and Safety Committee 3-4:30 p.m. The Audit, Actuarial and Medical Services & Safety Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

State Personnel Board of Review, 12th Fl., 65 E. State St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

BRAC & Military Affairs Task Force, Springfield-Beckley Air National Guard Base, Springfield, 1 p.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Cancer Caucus, 77 S. High St., 31st Floor, North Conference Room, Columbus, 8:15 a.m.

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to LaTourette for Ohio and/or Citizens for Gavarone)

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, The Lounge at Latitude 41, Renaissance Hotel, 50 North 3rd Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, October 24, 2017

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Judiciary

SB 125 **CHILD SUPPORT (Beagle, B.)** To make changes to the laws governing child support. (CONTINUED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

The bill was slated for a vote, but in a rare occurrence it was walked back in the face of united opposition from minority Democrats.

Chairman **Sen. Kevin Bacon** (R-Minerva Park) had called for a vote to report the bill, but when it ended up falling along party lines he reconsidered and asked for the motion to be withdrawn.

At issue was at least one point brought up by opponents during testimony: that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services should review how the law revisions are working two years after the measure's enactment versus four, which is currently called for on the bill.

Prior to the vote, **Sen. Cecil Thomas** (D-Cincinnati) had questioned witness Stuart Itani, representing the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, about his group's look-back proposal. Sen. Bacon, who previously termed the bill a "work in progress" despite the planned report, said the ranking minority member would instead work on the issue prior to a committee vote to try to reach a solution.

The Legal Aid Society also proposed amendments on increases to minimum support orders, adult phase-out percentages, dependency exemptions, health insurance, the addition of a domestic violence deviation factor, agency determination of disability and others.

Don Hubin, chairman of the Ohio chapter of National Parents Organization, a "shared parenting" advocacy group, also proposed several changes to the bill while especially focusing on the shared parenting time adjustment. He said the adjustment percentage of 10.5 should be based on the combined child support obligation of both parents, not just that of the non-custodial parent.

"The 2009, 2013, and 2017 Ohio Child Support Guidelines Advisory Councils Reports all recommend basing the SPTA on the combined child support obligation," he said.

Responding to **Sen. Bill Coley** (R-Liberty Twp.), Mr. Hubin said the bill in general makes some improvements to the current system but also makes it worse for middle- and higher-income parents who want to share parenting responsibility.

SB 152 **STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS (Dolan, M.)** Relative to transfers of structured settlement payment rights. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Earl Nesbitt, executive director of the National Association of Settlement Purchasers, testified in support of the measure, saying it would benefit members of his group, payees and judges working out settlement transfers.

"Senate Bill 152 is the result of a collaborative effort amongst the Ohio Judicial Conference, several individual probate judges, NASP, the National Structured Settlement Trade Association, a number of Ohio and national insurance trade organizations, Ohio trial lawyers and other members of the Ohio Bar, several members of the Ohio General Assembly and their staff, and other interested parties who have worked for well over a year on this effort to modernize and improve the Ohio law," he said.

The witness said the bill builds on Ohio's original structured settlement law, which passed in 2000.

"The bill before you today includes revisions and amendments which are consistent with the Model Structured Settlement Protection Act which was revised and readopted recently" by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators, Mr. Nesbitt said.

The Ohio Association for Justice, Ohio Judicial Conference and National Structured Settlements Trade Association submitted written testimony in support of the measure.

SB 183 **BUSINESS COURTS (LaRose, F.)** To create the Joint Committee to Study Ohio Business Courts. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Keith Ashmus, testifying on behalf of the Greater Cleveland Partnership and its small business division, the Council of Smaller Enterprises, said the group supported the bill's intent to study business courts in Ohio.

He said a streamlined docket for common commercial issues could encourage investment in Ohio and reduce companies' litigation costs.

Mr. Ashmus suggested legislators consider adding more representatives from the legal community to the joint committee studying business courts.

Sen. Coley said he was not aware of any problems in the operation of business courts.

"Did you know of problems in courts that had one or two of the judges assigned to a commercial docket?" he asked.

Mr. Ashmus said the problems in Cuyahoga County mostly resulted from the assignment of judges to the court. Those judges were required to take the special docket on top of their existing workload, he said.

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) questioned the idea of multi-county business courts. He said there could be issues in areas where people would have to drive long distances in order to have cases heard.

SB 195 **DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.)** To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Frances Lesser, executive director of the County Auditors' Association of Ohio, said the bill would place the responsibility of issuing dangerous dog registrations with county dog wardens.

"County dog wardens are in the best position to determine whether the specific statutory requirements for harboring a dangerous dog are being met," she said in prepared testimony.

"County auditors will continue to license most dogs under current and continuing law."

Shelley Dickstein, city manager of Dayton, also wrote in support, saying the bill would help address safety issues around improperly confined dogs in the city.

"In reviewing city policies and procedures to identify how we can best address these situations and prevent issues in the future, it became clear that at the local level, we are restricted in how we can address dog issues when they occur," she wrote.

The bill, she said, would allow more flexibility for local governments in dealing with problem animals. A provision that will help is the removal of the words "without provocation" from the current definition of a vicious, danger or nuisance dog, she said.

"Today, the city prosecutor has a fatality case that the county court was unable to pursue because they could not prove that the incident had occurred without provocation," she wrote.

"This case is now being reviewed in our municipal court as a first-degree misdemeanor for failure to control."

Carol Myers, a relative of Klonda Richey, who was killed in a dog attack in Dayton in 2014, said the bill would help prevent dogs from attacking people.

"Life is precious," she said. "No one should die of a dog attack."

SB 76 **TRESPASSING NOTICES (Coley, B.)** To amend the law governing criminal trespass to specify that placing purple paint marks on trees or posts constitutes posting notice in a manner reasonably calculated to come to the attention of potential intruders. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)**

The Ohio Farm Bureau and the Sportsmen's Alliance both wrote in support of the bill, which would allow landowners to use purple paint on trees or posts to signal "no trespassing."

"Allowing the use of purple paint to be posted on trees to indicate a clear line between property borders would be beneficial to hunters or trappers," Luke Houghton, associate director of state services for the Sportsmen's Alliance, wrote. "It will allow sportsmen and women to have a clear indication on how close they are to another property and will help ensure nearby neighbors are not disturbed."

Several other states already allow the use of purple paint to indicate property lines, Mr. Houghton said.

Tony Seegers, director of state policy for the Farm Bureau, said it will give property owners an easier and less expensive way to mark their property.

"As the committee can imagine, our members have numerous experiences with trespassers," he wrote. "These can range from ATV riders, trail users, hunters or even people canoeing on a navigable waterway along property that our members own."

"While trespassers do innocently tread onto farm property, some do so with malicious intent that leads to field and crop damage or theft," he continued. "Regardless of the trespasser's intent, SB76 provides another way for our members to give notice to the public, which in turn, by operation of the statute, can be used to evidence a trespassing charge."

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under Oct. 24. **Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs**

HB 8 **RECORDS EXEMPTION (Hambley, S., Rezabek, J.)** To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the

minor was an occupant at the time of the accident. (**REPORTED (See separate story)**; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 95

DISTRACTED DRIVING (Hughes, J., Seitz, B.) To establish an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted if the distraction is the apparent cause of the violation and to reenact provisions of law that specified that certain electronic wireless communications device violations were allied offenses of similar import. (**REPORTED (See separate story)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 127

WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (LaRose, F.) To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside. (**REPORTED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 160

LICENSE FEES (Williams, S.) To allow a court to authorize completion of a community service program in lieu of payment of driver's license reinstatement fees when the court determines that an offender cannot reasonably pay the fees. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Suzan M. Sweeney, a judge of the Cleveland Municipal Court, said the bill was inspired by defendants who are currently participating in community work service.

"For many, paying even \$50 each month is an onerous financial burden when they have insurance payments and other essential bills to pay. If a \$50 payment is missed, the driver is automatically driving under suspension again, and the next Reinstatement Fee may be doubled or tripled," she said.

Ms. Sweeney said she sometimes offers defendants the possibility of working off their fines and court costs by performing community service work at a rate of \$10 per hour.

"Community work service can be performed at almost any church, community recreation center, hunger center, food bank, governmental agency, literacy program, etc. that registers to accept volunteer CWS hours, she said. "Most any charity or agency that is in need of volunteer workers... and can track the hours worked to report back to a probation officer or to the Clerk of Courts would be acceptable. The Clerk of Courts could then certify those hours to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in lieu of that reinstatement fee."

Clerk of Courts offices are already in constant contact with BMVs regarding driving privileges, so implementing the bill would not be onerous, Ms. Sweeney added.

She told **Sen. Gayle Manning** (R-N. Ridgeville) that she is unsure what reinstatement fee collections are spent on, but the fees do increase with each violation.

Support for the bill also came from Paul Klodor, executive director of Court Community Service, a non-profit agency that administers the placement of adults ordered by Cleveland Municipal, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas, and other municipal courts in the greater Cleveland area.

He said his agency receives an average of 8,000 referrals per year from area courts and those individuals typically complete more than 250,000 hours of community service work.

"Many individuals are referred to our program to 'work off' fines and court fees because they have no means to pay. Often times our staff is asked, 'Can I work off my BMV fees? I'm here because I have no means to pay and I want to do the right thing and I can't drive unless I pay

my BMV fees.' With more than half of our referrals being unemployed this is a frequent question we hear in our office," Mr. Klodor said in prepared testimony.

"By providing an option to perform community service work in to work off BMV fees, individuals can have a path to driving legally while having to demonstrate responsible behavior and complete a defined number of work hours that, in turn, provide assistance to charitable agencies or help to improve their community through work on a supervised crew. It is a win-win for the courts and our communities," he added.

Cleveland Clerk of Courts Earle Turner also provided written testimony in support of the bill.

Public Utilities

SB 128 **NUCLEAR ENERGY (Eklund, J., LaRose, F.)** Regarding the zero-emissions nuclear resource program. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE (See separate story)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Oct. 24.

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House Activity for Tuesday, October 24, 2017

INTRODUCED

HB 390 ■ **FORCIBLE ENTRY** (Merrin, D.) To clarify how to calculate certain timelines under which a forcible entry and detainer action must occur. Am. 1923.04 and 1923.14

HB 391 ■ **ECONOMIC LOSSES** (Merrin, D.) To include the cost of accounting done to determine the extent of economic loss as a type of economic loss for which restitution may be granted. Am. 2929.01

HB 392 ■ **APIARY DAMAGES** (Stein, D.) To grant specified apiary owners immunity in personal injury or property damage cases. Am. 909.19

PASSED

SB 3 ■ **WEEK DESIGNATION** (Beagle, B., Balderson, T.) To designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week.
91-0
Gongwer Coverage

HB 142 ■ **CONCEALED WEAPONS** (Wiggam, S., Holmes, G.) To modify the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped.
69-24
Gongwer Coverage

HB 168 ■ **CEMETERY REGISTRATION** (Stein, D.) To modify duties of the Division of Real Estate in the Department of Commerce regarding cemetery registration, to specify cemetery owners must reasonably maintain cemeteries, to establish the Cemetery Grant Program, and to make an appropriation.
80-2 (Brinkman & Vitale)
Gongwer Coverage

HB 194 ■ **LICENSE PLATES (Johnson, T., Craig, H.)** To establish a program for the issuance of special license plates related to military service and awards.
91-0

Gongwer Coverage

HB 251 ■ **SUBDIVISION INVESTMENTS (Greenspan, D.)** To increase from five to ten years the maturity period of other political subdivision's bonds and obligations eligible for investment of a subdivision's interim moneys, a county's inactive moneys, and money in the county public library fund.
93-0

Gongwer Coverage

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Civil Justice

HB 174 ■ **FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT (Hughes, J., Lanese, L.)** To add two judges to the Domestic Relations Division of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to be elected in 2018. (**REPORTED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-Proponent-Possible vote)

HB 271 ■ **ACCESSIBILITY LAWS (McColley, R., Rezabek, J.)** To authorize an alleged aggrieved party to provide a notice of an alleged accessibility law violation in advance of filing a civil action and to establish the circumstances under which an alleged aggrieved party is entitled to attorney's fees in a civil action based on the violation. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED (See separate story)**; 3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party-Possible amendments)

Subscriber's Note: For full written testimony, see the committee's website under Oct.24.
Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

HB 353 ■ **UNCLAIMED FUNDS (Reineke, B.)** To exempt certain open-loop prepaid cards, closed-loop prepaid cards, and rewards cards from the Unclaimed Funds Law. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) said his bill will revise Ohio escheatment laws to no longer apply to open-loop gift cards, thus eliminating the requirement that financial institutions report the balances as unclaimed funds after a five-year period.

"Currently, Ohio businesses operate at a competitive disadvantage because Ohio escheatment laws apply to open-loop gift cards and require an Ohio based bank, whether federally or state chartered, to remit unused funds accessible by open-loop gift cards to the state after 5 years of inactivity," Rep. Reineke told the committee.

Ohio banks are currently prohibited from participating in an estimated \$150 billion market opportunity for prepaid purchases cited in a 2013 study, he said.

Rep. Reineke told the committee that Sutton Bank in his district is a "top 15" prepaid card issuing bank nationally. "Sutton Bank anticipates increasing its potential revenue over the

next 10 years so that by year 10, revenue from open-loop gift cards is not just meaningful to Sutton Bank but potentially to other Ohio financial service providers focusing upon the prepaid card industry," he added.

The proposed change in escheatment laws will have a minimum impact on current revenue collected from escheated open-loop gift card funds and will not harm Ohio consumers, he said.

Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay) asked if any states would be competitors in this market.

Rep. Reineke replied that South Dakota is the only state with such provisions and is benefiting from them. He also clarified that an example of a close-loop gift card is a Starbucks Coffee card, whereas an open-loop gift card is in a person's name.

Rep. Reineke clarified for **Rep. Kent Smith** (D-Euclid) that under current law, the funds remaining on an open-loop gift card are required to be reported and processed as unclaimed funds, but funds remaining on close-loop gift cards are not. This bill treats open-looped cards the same as close-looped cards, thus saving the money for banks.

Rep. Reineke told **Rep. Catherine Ingram** (D-Cincinnati) that you can access the funds by using the card.

Rep. Smith asked how Sutton Bank has become a "top 15" prepaid card issuing bank when other Ohio banks have not. Rep. Reineke replied that Sutton Bank has found a niche, but cannot expand it without revisions to current escheatment laws.

HB 368 **LAND CONTRACTS (Lepore-Hagan, M.)** To make changes to the law relating to land installment contracts. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) said her bill establishes new protections for Ohioans who utilize land installment contracts to buy homes.

She explained that some companies have engaged in predatory lending by taking advantage of land installment contracts, which provide opportunities for home ownership for those who do not qualify for a traditional mortgage.

This bill will require that a contract can only be recorded when all liens and code violations are alleviated, that the company offering the property must make all reasonable repairs, and the property owner must provide an inspection and certificate of compliance with the building code, she said.

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) inquired why the seller would be required to pay for the appraisal when in a traditional real-estate transaction it is the buyer who pays for it. Rep. Lepore-Hagan replied that currently an appraisal is not required at all. Frequently land contracts are not recorded which creates an information problem for banks issuing mortgages, she added.

Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) inquired if the provision requiring the property owner to make all reasonable repairs would be flexible enough to allow a buyer interested in negotiating for a lower price making the repairs themselves.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan replied that she is not opposed to land installment contracts, but there are extreme situations where companies are taking advantage of the Ohio code that must be addressed.

Rep. Brenner asked how the bill will affect buyers who wish to "flip" a property for profit or to improve the neighborhood. Similarly, **Rep. David Leland** (D-Columbus) asked about buyers who wish to purchase a property "as is."

Rep. Lepore-Hagan responded that the provision is currently in place to ensure that ~~unknowing customers are protected, but she is willing to work with them to address the ability~~ to knowingly buy a property that has not been reasonably repaired.

Rep. Lepore-Hagan said she would provide more information to the committee about provisions that **Rep. Catherine Ingram** (D-Cincinnati) said "do not mesh."

SB 163 **COUNTY INVESTMENTS** (**Wilson, S.**) To modify the qualifications regarding notes eligible for investment of county inactive moneys. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) said his bill will provide county treasurers the option to invest in bonds that are rated in the top three categories, as opposed to the current law which allows investment in only AA and AAA bonds. It will also expand the permissible maturity of securities from two to three years, he said.

The insurance of corporate paper for AA and AAA bonds is "very limited and oftentimes results in concentrated county investment portfolios with limited availability to corporate debt securities," Sen. Wilson told the committee.

"Allowing investments in all three categories will broaden and strengthen county portfolios,"

Sen. Wilson said. It also has the potential to increase overall portfolio yield, he added.

For very little additional risk, we can make a significant difference in what county treasurers can earn, he said.

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the committee website under Oct. 24.

Ways & Means

HB 292 **OHIO RESIDENCY** (**Scherer, G.**) To modify the test for determining an individual's state of residence for income tax purposes. (REPORTED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee voted to report the bill after fielding written interested party testimony from Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio.

Mr. Schiller said the bill's new requirements - such as considering those with valid driver's licenses or receiving in-state tuition as residents - have merit. But he added that "the extremely long time" one can be in Ohio without becoming a resident is "not justifiable."

"While it may be beneficial to certain Florida snowbirds, it distorts what it means to be an Ohioans and is out of line with general practice," Mr. Schiller wrote. "We urge the committee to scale back the residency requirement to 183 days, so someone who is in Ohio most of the time is in fact an Ohioan under tax law."

HB 304 **ADOPTION CREDIT** (**Young, R.**) To extend a personal income tax credit available for the adoption of a minor child to include a disabled adult adopted by the adult's stepparent. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy) said the bill is a "fairly simply but crucial" proposal brought to him by a Northeast Ohio family. Although the state currently offers an adoption tax credit for

adoptive parents, he said those who adopt disabled adult children are unable to receive that benefit.

"I believe that we should at minimum allow for these families to receive the same tax credit as another family who would adopt a child as many of the same expenditures - if not more - are put out by the family as they legalize the permanent care giving of this child," Rep. Young said.

He described the bill as narrowly crafted and limited to a maximum of \$10,000, which he said is in line with the credit granted to traditional adoptions.

HB 317 **TAX DEDUCTION (Young, R.)** To authorize, for six years, a personal income tax deduction for a physician based on the number of hours the physician provides uncompensated medical services through a hospital, free clinic, or nongovernmental medical organization. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

This bill from Rep. Young would permit physicians providing uncompensated care to take a personal tax deduction of up to \$10,000 at the uncompensated rate of \$125 per hour. Eligible circumstances could include unpaid work for hospitals, free clinics or medical mission organizations, the sponsor said.

"This deduction may be taken for up to six years and the care must be verified through the hospital, clinic, or organization with whom the physician is working," Rep. Young said. "This legislation gives them added incentive to care for the poor and serves as recognition of their efforts from an appreciative society. This simple gesture would potentially be saving each participate a maximum of \$500 per year in taxes paid to the state."

The bill is backed by the Ohio Association of Free Clinics and the sponsor said input was received from the Department of Taxation, the Ohio Hospital Association and the Ohio State Medical Association.

Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) said he had assumed such service was already eligible for a deduction but clarification from Legislative Service Commission staff revealed that is a federal rather than state deduction.

Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton) suggested allowing doctors to apply some of those service hours to their continuing education requirement, which he said would save doctors money while preserving state tax revenue. And the sponsor told **Rep. Steve Hambley** (R-Brunswick) he would be open to including dentists under the scope of the bill.

Asked by **Rep. Craig Riedel** (R-Defiance) why the deduction would be limited to a six-year lifespan, Rep. Young answered that he wanted a designated point at which to review the deduction's success.

HB 334 **BUSINESS INCOME (Scherer, G.)** To provide that wages and guaranteed payments paid by a professional employer organization to the owner of a pass-through entity that has contracted with the organization may be considered business income. (REPORTED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee reported the bill after a party-line vote to table an amendment from **Rep. Jack Cera** (D-Bellaire). Rep. Cera's amendment would have required businesses to demonstrate

to the state they have created or retained jobs or invested in the state in order to receive the small business income tax credit.

"I realize the fate of this amendment today, but I'd encourage members of this committee...to continue to look at this tax credit and make sure if we are going to forego hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue we do so to benefit all Ohioans and not just a percentage of 1% of top earners in the state," Rep. Cera said.

Republican members voted to table the amendment after Chairman **Rep. Tim Schaffer** (R-Lancaster) expressed concern it would "make small businesses jump through more hoops and barriers."

Mr. Schiller of Policy Matters Ohio also submitted written testimony on the bill, this time as an opponent. In doing so, he cautioned lawmakers and pointed to LSC estimates that it will cost potentially up to \$2 million a year and up to \$10 million for previous years if the legislation remains retroactive in nature.

He also suggested lawmakers exclude compensation from the business income deduction. "Rather than reducing revenues further by allowing owners of passthroughs using PEOs to claim the same deduction, this loophole should be closed and the compensation deduction should be eliminated," he said.

HB 343 **PROPERTY VALUES (Merrin, D.)** To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

HB 371 **PROPERTY TAX (Merrin, D.)** To exempt from property taxation the increased value of land subdivided for residential development until construction commences or the land is sold. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) said Ohio is missing out on economic benefits from new homebuilding and that the Buckeye State has performed "far below" national averages in single- and multi-family home construction.

"Our tax laws discourage landowners from taking the first step in having land platted and subdivided," he said. "House bill 371 seeks to reform our tax code to be pro-homebuilding and spur land development."

Specifically, the bill would exempt pre-residential lots from an increased tax value on land due to subdividing for residential homebuilding until construction commences or the land is sold.

He described a hypothetical developer who purchases 10 acres of land for \$100,000. After the developer subdivides the land into 10 parcels, the county auditor then places a new value on the 10 lots. Rep. Merrin put that hypothetical figure at a \$50,000 tax value, bumping overall land value to \$500,000, which increases the developer's risk.

Under the bill, the sponsor said, "The land will still be taxable, but the auditor cannot place a higher value on the land, thus resulting in higher taxes. The hypothetical developer that purchased 10 acres of raw land valued at \$100,000 would not have the overall value of his land increased for subdividing the land."

But committee members questioned the bill's impact on former agricultural land and on older suburban areas that may house vacant lots where homes have been demolished. In the former case, **Rep. Scott Ryan** (R-Newark) recommended the sponsor make the bill clearer in terms of whether agricultural land would be locked into its market value or CAUV value.

Regarding older neighborhoods, **Rep. Janine Boyd** (D-Cleveland Hts.) asked whether the sponsor would consider making his bill more targeted to specific areas of the state where housing development is lacking.

"I think we need to have rules that apply to the entire state," Rep. Merrin answered, adding that he views the bill as a way to spur downtown and urban development as well.

Rep. Merrin argued that any lost tax revenue would be offset by the economic development boost communities would receive due to development that wouldn't occur under the current system.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Oct. 24.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 127 **STEEL WELDING (Perales, R., Dever, J.)** To establish in the Ohio Building Code requirements pertaining to structural steel welding and bridge welding. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Proponent & opponent)**

Greg Whitlow, a 22-year ironworker and apprenticeship instructor, testified in support, telling the panel that the passage of a welding test demonstrates a person's ability to perform required tasks.

He said he has seen facilities accept test plates - possibly not even from the correct person - to certify welders. "Not only is this wrong, but it's extremely dangerous," he said. "Testing facilities are basically selling certifications to companies and welders for a fee and not watching the person that actually took the test."

He said it is unfair to people who go through proper training and testing to have others sidestep the requirements. "It's not only unfair to these people to spend the time and money to learn to become certified welders, it's extremely dangerous to us, our families, and our friends to be in the schools, the buildings, and travel the bridges that uncertified welders have welded on that could possibly collapse due to bad welds made by a uncertified welder," he said.

Responding to questions, Mr. Whitlow said welders undergo extensive training and must be aware of a number of factors - including weather conditions - to perform solid welds.

Bill Woodward also testified in support, saying he wants to prevent situations when some may cheat to secure their licenses. He said that process puts people at risk, and added that he would like to see penalties added to the bill.

HB 263 **OUTDOOR DINING AREAS (Lanese, L.)** To generally allow an owner, keeper, or harbinger of a dog to take the dog in an outdoor dining area of a retail food establishment or food service operation. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Opponent)**

Two owners of service dogs expressed opposition to the plan in written testimony, indicating that introducing untrained dogs into restaurant environments could create problems.

Joseph Rocco Marchi said his service dog responds quickly to his commands, and has been trained to follow those directions.

"No other dog has that experience," he wrote. "You are making a big mistake bringing in untrained dogs with no license (which I carry) come into any venue. Regardless if it is outside or inside, once you people open the door for people to start doing this, it will never end."

Valerie Slayman offered similar thoughts, saying that she doesn't agree that all dogs should have access to restaurant patio areas.

Among the issues, she said, are sanitation and animal behavior.

"While many people think it would be wonderful to be able to bring their dog to dinner, I do not," she said in her testimony. "While an animal may behave in the comfort of their home environment, many will not when faced with being around other dogs and having the smell of food lurking in the background. How easy it would be to have a dog jump up and snatch a hamburger off the plate of a fellow diner then what happens?"

She also suggested that dog bites at restaurants could also lead to medical visits.

"While I have covered only a few scenarios here, there are many more that can happen and not all of them will be favorable," she said. "Please remember you are asking a non-trained dog to be in an environment they are not used to, surrounded by other dogs they do not know, children and food. If that is not an accident waiting to happen, I do not know what is."

State & Local Government

HB 121 **PIPE MATERIALS (Edwards, J.)** To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)**

HB 139 **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (Perales, R., Keller, C.)** To eliminate the public disclosure exemption for any permanently retained record 100 years after the date of its creation. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-Opponent)**

HB 279 **JOHN GLENN HOME (Hill, B., Rosenberger, C.)** To require the Ohio History Connection to designate John Glenn's childhood home as a state historic site. **(REPORTED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Barbara Hansen, executive director of the John and Annie Glenn Museum, said "the Ohio History Connection is the perfect platform to enable us to showcase the boyhood home of John Glenn."

That's because the Ohio History Connection offers curatorial support, and a higher profile statewide, among other advantages, Ms. Hansen said. The museum anticipates receiving status as a member of the National Register of Historic Sites and is fundraising to cover the cost of the application process, she added.

"As passionate members of the local community, we view ourselves as stewards of the inspiring story of John Glenn's formative years growing up in small town Southeastern Ohio," she said.

HB 291 **GOVERNMENT INSURANCE (Wiggam, S.)** To authorize counties, townships, and municipal corporations to purchase an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty insurance policy, instead of a bond, for

protection from loss due to the fraudulent or dishonest actions of, and the failure to perform a duty prescribed by law by, an officer, official, employee, or appointee for which a bond is required by law. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

The committee held off on discussing two potential amendments, with Chairwoman Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) saying the changes will be discussed at the committee's next meeting.

John Leutz testified that the County Commissioners Association of Ohio supports the legislation, which permits alternatives to surety bonds to protect a political subdivision from the fraudulent or dishonest acts of employees.

"CCAO believes that obtaining surety coverage in this manner would provide administrative efficiency by not having to go out and buy individual bonds and save our counties money while obtaining similar or greater coverage limits," he testified.

Commercial insurance broker Kevin Fink addressed the committee as a private citizen. He told the committee that based on his experience with Public Official Bonds and Public Employee Dishonesty insurance coverage, although the current statutory requirement to purchase a Public Officials Bond "may be reasonable for certain elected positions, I would opine it is woefully inadequate in fulfilling this goal for many others."

Mr. Fink explained that there are many differences between Public Official Bonds and Employee Dishonesty insurance policies. He compared surety bonds to extending credit, and said Public Official Bonds guarantee taxpayers that the official will fulfill his or her duties.

Because employees can fail to fulfill their duties without acting dishonestly, the Employee Dishonesty insurance policy must be written as this bill requires, he said.

Written proponent testimony was submitted from several parties, including Kent Scarrett of the Ohio Municipal League. Mr. Scarrett wrote the bill will "grant municipalities and other local governments the power to choose the best way they can protect taxpayer dollars from fraud by their elected and public officials."

Requiring surety bonds as a method of protection has served the Ohio well for the past 64 years, but it is becoming out-of-date, added Patrick Herron, Wayne County administrator.

Mr. Herron wrote that the bonds cost more for less employee coverage. The cost to cover 33 employees with the required amount of bonds is \$4,080 annually, whereas the annual cost for the county to carry \$1 million worth of Employee Theft coverage for almost 1,000 employees is \$7,095, he explained.

Also submitting written proponent testimony were Matthew DeTemple of the Ohio Township Association, Richard Studenic of Wichert Insurance, and Carolyn Baer of Wayne County's Baughman Township.

HB 300 IDENTIFICATION CARDS (Barnes, J.) To provide that any nondriver identification card that is issued to a resident of Ohio who is permanently disabled must be issued without an expiration date. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Written proponent testimony was submitted by Elaine Gohlstein, CEO of Harvard Community Services Center in Cleveland. Ms. Gohlstein said the bill would enhance the quality of life for disabled individuals by not requiring them to renew their identification as frequently.

"By increasing the length of expiration of any nondriver identification card from four years to 15 years, individuals who are permanently or irreversibly disabled will not have to travel the path of renewal of the card as often, which typically has many barriers and obstacles that they must overcome," she wrote.

HB 307 **MONTH DESIGNATION (Gonzales, A.)** To designate September as "We Card Month." (REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 315 **DAY DESIGNATION (Arndt, S.)** To designate October 6 as "S.M.A.R.T. Parent Day." (REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 319 **STATE PET (Lanese, L.)** To designate a shelter pet as Ohio's official pet. (REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB 359 **STATE FLAG (Stein, D.)** To create a suggested ceremonial procedure for retiring an Ohio state flag. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Dick Stein (R-Norwalk) said the idea for the bill came from a Boy Scout pursuing his Eagle Scout rank. The bill, he said, would apply essentially the same retirement protocol for the state flag as currently applied to the United States flag.

"The ceremony specifies separating the flag into six pieces; the five stripes will be separated from the blue field," Rep. Stein said. "The wording of the ceremony draws on the symbolism of our flag; the stripes represent the roads and waterways, the blue field, our hills and valleys. Each piece shall be retired by fire."

Rep. Anielski asked how the retirement differs from that of the U.S. flag. **Rep. Stein** said the differences are mostly verbal, with U.S. references being swapped for references to Ohio. The procedure itself, he said, is similar.

HB 364 **VOTER REGISTRATION (Clyde, K.)** To designate the fourth Tuesday of September as "Ohio Voter Registration Day." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) said half of voting age Americans live in a state with automatic or same day voter registration while at least 1 million Ohioans are not registered to vote.

Designating Ohio Voter Registration Day, which she labeled a "call to action," would increase awareness for registration through events and information campaigns, she said.

"These events work to publicize the critical information people need to get registered, update their addresses and cast their ballots - especially among those who may have the most questions when it comes to registration, namely young voters, college students, minority voters and low income voters," Rep. Clyde said.

Responding to questions, she said the day would coincide with National Voter Registration Day and that the measure would have budgetary impact.

SB 144 **DISABILITIES COUNCIL (Burke, D.)** To abolish the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Commission, Consumer Advisory Committee, and Governor's Council on People with Disabilities and to establish a state

rehabilitation services council known as the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

There are currently 45 people serving on three separate bodies representing individuals with disabilities, **Sen. Dave Burke** (R-Marysville) said. His bill would streamline those entities into a single State Rehabilitation Council.

"Ohio is the only state in the country still using the commission structure," he said.

"Despite the progresses we have made in recent years in vocational rehab programs, these three bodies have remained unchanged. With the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities' inclusion as a cabinet level agency, a clearer and more effective streamlined approach is necessary."

The proposed could would integrate the work of the three existing bodies and provide feedback on vocational rehab services to an Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council, Sen. Burke said.

The council will be made up of 15 members appointed by the governor and will represent a cross section of the disabilities community, he said. The reduction of board members will save the state an estimated \$33,300 annually.

SB 71 **AGENCY CONTRACTS (Manning, G.)** To allow a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to authorize its executive director to execute contracts valued at \$50,000 or less without the board's prior approval. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) said current law has been interpreted to require county board of mental health executive directors to receive board approval for every contract.

"This requirement impacts situations in which a person in a crisis situation requires specialized services that are not immediately available under an existing contract," she said.

"In most cases, the impractical real-world effect of this is to keep an individual restricted to an emergency room setting while waiting for the board to meet and approve the contract for services required."

Under the bill, executive directors could approve emergency contracts for clinical or recovery support services and standard service contracts pertaining to board operations, so long as they don't exceed \$25,000.

The proposed change is permissive, Sen. Manning said, meaning county boards will have the discretion to determine how much control they will provide to executive directors.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Oct. 24.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HCR 9 **EXTRADITION (Holmes, G.)** To urge the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States to compel Brazil to extradite Claudia Hoerig to stand trial for the aggravated murder of her husband, Major Karl Hoerig, and to request that the United States terminate foreign aid payments to Brazil if Claudia Hoerig is not extradited. **(REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)**

The panel adopted a substitute that sponsor **Rep. Glenn Holmes** (D-McDonald) said changed Ms. Hoerig's nationality to American. Responding to questions from other members, the sponsor said Ms. Hoerig, who has had her Brazilian citizenship revoked, has not been extradited even though Brazilian courts ruled as such because the executive branch has the final say over such matters in that country. The bill was reported without opposition, although **Rep. Adam Miller** (D-Columbus) abstained due to his military service.

Criminal Justice

HB 141 ■ **INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER** (**Dever, J., Wiggam, S.**) To provide that causing or contributing to the death of another person as a result of the offender's sale, distribution, dispensation, or administration of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog is a violation of the offense of involuntary manslaughter and to make this offense a strict liability offense. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

John Clemons of Northwood testified in support, detailing how heroin ruined his life - due to his son's overdose. He said he had never used the drug but nevertheless goes to bed every night and wakes up every day thinking about it as a result of his son's death in 2015.

"Even though I'm not an addict, I'm suffering just as much," he said, while adding: "It will not take away my voice."

Mr. Clemons, who is a member of the Wood County opioid task force, said he backed the bill in part because the two people who got his son the heroin ended up with relatively light sentences based on tampering with evidence.

Reading through the LSC Bill Analysis, he suggested a few ways in which the bill should be strengthened.

Niki Clum, legislative liaison for the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, submitted written testimony in opposition.

"Under current law, prosecutors can pursue involuntary manslaughter charges against individuals that sell drugs if a death results," she wrote. "The problem with HB141 is that it will lead to involuntary manslaughter convictions anytime the seller of a drug can be identified, even if a conviction for involuntary manslaughter is not reasonable in that case."

Attorney General Mike DeWine wrote to the committee in favor of the bill, saying it "seeks to hold drug dealers accountable for their actions...." He pointed to statistics showing 4,050 people died of overdoses in Ohio last year, which reflected a nearly 33% increase over 2015. "The drug epidemic is being fought on many fronts throughout Ohio, and the ability to hold drug dealers accountable for overdose deaths would be a significant tool for law enforcement, prosecutors and judges," Mr. DeWine wrote.

Paul Pfeifer, executive director of the Ohio Judicial Conference, said his group had concerns with the sentencing portions of the bill, specifically because it would create an "unclassified felony subject to its own sentencing requirements...."

"As a general matter, judges do not favor the creation of unclassified felonies or misdemeanors," he wrote. "There has been a trend in legislation in recent years that new offenses should have their own individual sentencing requirements. Creating these piecemeal exceptions to felony sentencing guidelines defeats the purpose of having such a

framework in the first place and weakens the codification and classification of criminal offenses into levels of degree.

"Additionally, unclassified offenses give little guidance to sentencing courts as to how an offender can be sentenced and lead to widely disparate sanctions for similar factual scenarios," Mr. Pfeifer said. OJC recommended the bill be amended to give the new offense a felony classification.

HB 283 **ADOPTIONS (Rezabek, J.)** To require the juvenile court judge to provide written consent to certain adoptions involving abused, neglected, or dependent children. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

HB 327 **IMPORTUNING (Schaffer, T., Smith, K.)** To amend the penalties for the offense of importuning. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

Gary Daniels, chief lobbyist for the ACLU of Ohio, cited the group's report titled "The Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline," saying the bill at hand was a prime example of bills that require mandatory minimum sentencing, which is "a significant factor in our nation's out-of-control incarceration rates."

"It enhances sentences for offenses that are already third- and fifth-degree felonies," he said. "A balance must be struck. The ACLU of Ohio does not believe proponents of HB327 have demonstrated why this bill's passage necessitates increasing an already-bursting prison system."

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said, and the witness agreed, he couldn't think of any crime aside from drug-related offenses that entailed mandatory minimum sentencing when no physical contact or violence occurred with an incident.

Attorney General Mike DeWine wrote in support of the measure, saying it "creates a necessary tool for law enforcement to protect Ohio's youth from sexual predators conspiring behind the glare of a computer screen."

"While the world benefits greatly from technological advancements, there is, without a doubt, the need to ensure this new era is safe for our most vulnerable populations, especially our children," he said.

OJC's Mr. Pfeifer said in written testimony his group generally opposes mandatory sentences "or any measures that reduce or infringe upon judicial discretion."

"Rarely is a one-size-fits-all approach effective in furthering the overriding purpose of sentencing that the legislature has established," he said. "Mandatory sentences can have unintended practical consequences that are avoided when judicial discretion is preserved because judges are uniquely positioned to advance the interests of justice through their application of the law to diverse patterns of facts in every case that comes before them."

HB 354 **COURT JURISDICTION (Reineke, B.)** To provide the Tiffin-Fostoria municipal court with concurrent jurisdiction with the Seneca County court of common pleas in operating a drug addiction recovery program. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Testifying on behalf of the bill, Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Steve Shuff explained its thrust, saying the county had been proactive in creating along with judges and several local entities an Opiate Addiction Task Force.

"This task force has been aggressive in its approach to this crisis. One part of this aggressive approach is to create a multi-jurisdictional drug recovery program," he said. "This request does not create a new Court but rather a program. Hopefully, the funding for this program will be a Justice Reinvestment Incentive Grant from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction." He said the county recently applied for the grant.

"The Judges for the Municipal Court and the Common Pleas Court have realized that the opioid crisis in rural counties involves the same issues, the same controlled substances and many times the same people. Combining our resources and our expertise allows the Courts to address these issues much more effectively and efficiently," Judge Shuff said.

The new initiative, dubbed the PIVOT Drug Recovery program, "will include all accepted drug offenders regardless if their drug charges are misdemeanors or felonies. H.B. No. 354 provides the trial Courts in Seneca County the opportunity to properly address the issues involved with drug offenders. Since the trial Courts will be all housed in the new Seneca County Justice Center, the creation of one drug recovery program makes good common sense."

Responding to a question from Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton), the judge said the county would likely contract with the Oriana House, which would maintain statistics and financial information so the savings and effectiveness could be documented and shared with other jurisdictions around the state.

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake), who said the drug court in Lake County has been a success, asked about people who don't comply with court orders.

Judge Shuff said it depended on the nature of the violation, adding that repeat felons would likely be kicked out of the program.

The panel also received 19 letters of support for the bill from community leaders, Chairman Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) said.

SB 33 **LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA** (Eklund, J.) To allow disclosure of information from the law enforcement automated data system (LEADS) to a defendant in a traffic or criminal case. (**REPORTED-SUBSTITUTE (No testimony)**; 5th Hearing-Possible substitute & vote)

Prior to the report, Rep. Rezabek introduced and the panel adopted a substitute version that he said made no substantive changes but did remove language regarding State Highway Patrol jurisdiction.

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security

HB 192 **VETERAN COMMISSIONS** (Miller, A., Anielski, M.) To permit county veterans service commissions to elect to add two members to the commission, one who is a veteran who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or subsequently in those theaters of operation, and one who is a military spouse. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

The committee accepted an amendment declaring that commissions aren't required to add new seats, and that the new seats don't necessarily have to be one for a spouse and one for a post- Sept. 11, 2001 veteran, sponsor **Rep. Adam Miller** (D-Columbus) said.

The new version of the bill gives commissions an opportunity to expand, and increases the pool of people who can be appointed by saying the members could be spouses or veterans of Afghanistan or Iraq, he said.

Nichole Coleman, president of the Ohio State Association of County Veterans Service Officers, said her group and the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners would need time to go back to their members to determine if the changes in the amendment were enough to overcome concerns.

"We will appreciate it if this just slows down enough for us to have the discussion, a few more meetings," she said.

In prepared testimony, she outlined concerns regarding the cost of creating new seats on the commissions, the limited definition of someone who served after Sept. 11, and the addition of a seat for spouses.

James Whitaker, a Vietnam War veteran, said spouses would provide valuable input because they often have to assist veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and understand those issues.

HB 254 **POW/MIA FLAG (Wiggam, S.)** To enact the POW/MIA Remembrance Act requiring the POW/MIA flag to be displayed at certain buildings operated by the state on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans' Day. **(REPORTED; 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

The committee voted unanimously to report the bill.

Doug Mundy, commander of the Department of Ohio, American Ex-Prisoners of War expressed support in written testimony, saying it would honor the sacrifice of service members who were prisoners of war or are missing in action.

"The next-of-kin can only imagine the suffering our fathers and mothers endured as prisoners of war," he said. "Some for weeks, some for months, and some for years."

HB 295 **DOG REGISTRATIONS (Goodman, W.)** To exempt certain disabled veterans from paying a dog registration fee when application is made to the county auditor that includes proof that the dog is an assistance dog. **(CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)**

Morrow County Auditor Patricia Davies testified in support on behalf of the County Auditors' Association of Ohio, saying "providing these brave men and women with a free registration license for an assistance dog is the least we can do."

The registration would be permanent, not subject to annual renewal, she said. The change is expected to increase the number of applications for exemption from the fees, she said, and county auditors asked for additional guidance on the type of certification or proof needed to confirm the dog has been trained.

"County auditors believe this addition will assist in insuring that the dog is properly trained to serve the needs of the disabled veteran," she said. "We hope you will consider adding such guidance."

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) said she also had concerns about the definition of a "nonprofit special agency" that certifies the dog has been trained. She said there are organizations that will certify dogs that have not been trained.

Crawford County Auditor Joan Wolfe also wrote in support.

"I believe that as a state, it is one very small thank you to honorably discharged, disabled veterans to be exempt from paying an annual dog registration fee for their trained assistance dog," she wrote.

SCR 8 **MISSILE DEFENSE (O'Brien, S., Eklund, J.)** A resolution to urge the United States Missile Defense Agency to select Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center in Ravenna, Ohio, as the preferred site for a future east coast Missile Defense system. **(REPORTED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the [committee's website](#) under Oct. 24. **Education & Career Readiness**

HB 176 **SCHOOL TESTING (Thompson, A.)** With to regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-Opponent)**

HB 224 **SCHOOL FOODS (Ingram, C.)** To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging. **(CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)**

Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati) said the bill would allow districts across the state to save food that currently has to be thrown away.

Under current law, schools must dispose of food items such as milk, yogurt and cheese sticks that have been served to students but haven't been opened, she said. However, they could be used, if properly stored, to provide additional food to food-insecure students.

"These items can still safely be consumed - the USDA encourages the practice and Vermont, Indiana, Colorado and Michigan already implement similar programs - but because of Ohio food temperature control regulations, these items end up in school trash cans," Rep. Ingram said.

The legislation is permissive and does not require schools to collect unopened meal items and reserve them in some way, she added.

Responding to questions from the panel, Rep. Ingram said she plans to offer an amendment to clarify that saved products must be in their commercial packaging.

There is no number that's been assigned to how much students and families would save through changes proposed in the bill, but schools will save on the costs of fines they've been charged for reserving food, she said.

HB 360

BULLYING (Greenspan, D.) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)

The bill, which was substituted prior to sponsor testimony, would "provide a standard general protocol for addressing acts of bullying and hazing while continuing to respect the concept of local control," sponsoring **Rep. Dave Greenspan** (R-Westlake) said.

The bill, in its latest iteration, would create a due process for exploring bullying claims and responding to them as well as expand the definition of who may be a victim of bullying to include administrators, employees, faculty members, teachers, consultants and volunteers. Districts that punish a student for bullying would be required to create a community service plan that includes specific goals and timelines under which the student must perform community service during his or her suspension, Rep. Greenspan said. Students are also required to complete missed school work if they're suspended for bullying.

The sponsor said the bill takes a "firm yet fair approach to addressing and changing the behavior of the bully by providing an appropriate punishment along with corrective measures."

The wide-ranging measure also touches on victim services, whistleblower policies and school record keeping. It also includes requirements for higher education, ensuring institutions adopt policies on harassment, intimidation, bullying and hazing.

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) praised the bill, asking why it creates penalties for recklessly permitting hazing but not for bullying.

Because the bullying portion of the bill is targeted at grades 4-12, Rep. Greenspan said he choose to remove law enforcement action that could be taken. However, he said there is nothing in the bill that would prohibit individuals from seeking charges against bullies if they cause physical harm.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) is working on a bill that would address bullying in grades K-3, he added.

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) questioned why the bill tracks bullying offenses over the course of a calendar year when nearly all K-12 data is tracked on a school-year calendar. The sponsor said he's open to changing the timeline.

Rep. Greenspan told Rep. John Patterson (R-Jefferson) that the hazing portion of the bill can be applied to students in grades 4-12 despite being focused on higher education.

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School Officials Question Bill Placing New Requirements On Credit Card Use

Skeptical Lawmakers Question Proponents Of Piping Material Bill

Human Services Agencies Support Bill To Increase Information Sharing

High Court: Sexual Imposition Charges Involving Two Young Children May Be Dismissed

Retiree Advocates Vote To Oppose Recent OPERS Cost-Of-Living Proposal

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Senate Committee Hearings

Ways & Means

Government Oversight & Reform

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House Committee Hearings

Aging & Long Term Care

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House Activity for Wednesday, October 25, 2017

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Aging & Long Term Care

HB 286 **PALLIATIVE CARE (LaTourette, S.)** To create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, to establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and to require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care. (**REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony)**; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Before reporting the bill, the committee adopted an amendment from **Rep. Darrell Kick** (R-Loudonville) that replaces the word "or" with the word "and" in line 61 of the bill. In doing so, the as-reported version of the bill reads that at least two members of the council shall be physicians who are board-certified in hospice and palliative care.

HB 362 **HPRS RETIREMENT (Carfagna, R., Ramos, D.)** To revise the law governing the State Highway Patrol Retirement System. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Representatives of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System and those representing retirees both signaled their support for the bill in testimony.

Mark Atkeson, the retirement system's executive director, described the bill as a follow-up to prior legislation (HB520, 131st General Assembly) which was intended to clean up language related to state public retirement systems. Given the system's status as a single-employer system, unlike other Ohio systems, he said these additional changes are needed to ensure the system's continued solvency.

Components of the bill include:

- Restoring the minimum retirement age to 52 for new hires after Jan. 1, 2020.
- Calculating pension benefits for off-duty disabilities based on a minimum 12-year service benefits instead of the current 20-year benefit.
- Eliminating automatic 50% unfunded survivor benefit and establishing a set amount \$900 for survivor benefits with that amount to be increased annually by the board.
- Providing no survivor benefits for those marrying after retirement.

"These changes reduce the amortization period of our unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, and when these changes are fully realized they will have a compounded cumulative effect on reducing our unfunded liabilities," Mr. Atkeson said.

Robert Booker, president of the Ohio Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, also voiced his group's support for the move. He said the proposed changes "are necessary and will decrease the amortization period of the system's unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities by several years, thus improving its solvency."

"We know that changes, while sometimes concerning, are needed to ensure the long-term viability of our retirement system," Mr. Booker added. "These changes will preserve our system; not only for our current retirees but for many others transitioning from the active ranks."

OSHP Staff Lt. Matt Them additionally expressed his "full support," adding the bill "is in the best interest of the retirement system and its long-term solvency."

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under Oct. 25.

Transportation & Public Safety

HB 250 **ELECTRIC BICYCLES (Brinkman, T.)** To establish requirements for the use of electric bicycles. (**CONTINUED-SUBSTITUTE**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) offered and the committee adopted a substitute version to reserve the authorization of e-bike usage on natural surface trails to local governments. Morgan Lommele testified on behalf of PeopleForBikes and the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association and explained that Ohio is one of 20 states that does not have rules governing the use of e-bikes.

"The absence of any provisions aimed at e-bikes makes it particularly confusing for manufacturers, retailers, customers, and law enforcement to determine how they are regulated within our traffic laws or what type of vehicle they are regulated as," she said. This bill will establish consistent standards for the three main forms of products on the market, create a uniform labeling standard for all e-bikes to aid law enforcement, and includes additional restrictions for higher speed Class 3 bicycles, she said.

Dan Fausey, president of Central Ohio Mountain Biking Organization, said he supports the legislation, but explained that he is not in favor of authorizing e-bikes to traverse on all-natural surface trails without land manager and community input. Mr. Fausey said the amendment passed in committee addresses his concerns.

"We believe e-bikes reach an audience of people who wish to stay in the sport longer, and it reaches individuals who see the distance or terrain of their commute as a barrier to bicycling more often," said Laura Estandia, executive director of Bike Miami Valley.

As the home to the largest paved trail network, e-bike regulation will be important for attracting tourism to the area, she said.

Ms. Estandia told Rep. Sheehy that speed limits on the trails are under the jurisdiction of the trail managing agencies. Though they are currently inconsistent, there is a movement in Miami Valley to standardize speed limits throughout the trail network, she said.

Phillip Obermiller, an Ohio resident and active e-bike rider, explained that he and his wife have enjoyed many trips partaking in local commerce on their e-bikes.

Mr. Obermiller said that it is time to update the code to include e-bikes, and that he hopes the stigma attached to e-bikes will fade.

Mr. Obermiller told **Rep. Doug Green** (R-Mt. Orab) that some e-bikes cost between \$600 and \$800, but he purchased his personal e-bike for \$2,500.

Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) inquired if there are standards for assembling e-bikes. Mr. Obermiller replied that the classifications are mainly based on the power and speed of the bike. In response to her question about safety concerns, Mr. Obermiller said that he would be

worried about parents allowing children to use e-bikes that are more powerful than they can control.

Peter Smakula, owner of an Akron electric bicycle store, said the legislation is necessary to remedy the misconception that e-bikes are motorized vehicles.

Tom Bennet, owner of Orbit City Bikes in Columbus, explained that many customers question the legality of e-bikes because there are no specific provisions in the law regarding e-bikes. It is not only customers who need guidance, but the BMV as well, he said. To address Rep. Reece's earlier question about standards, Mr. Bennet said there are federal standards for building bicycles, including e-bikes.

Steve Murphy, co-founder of the Little Miami State Park, said the park has received no complaints about the speed or use of e-bikes from its 1.2 million visitors each year.

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) said he believes that the culture must change, and the public must accept that e-bike owners have the right to ride on state trails.

Rep. Reece inquired how the park enforces speed limits on the trails. Mr. Murphy replied that the park has volunteers who monitor the trail and "see something say something" policies for riders.

On behalf of Rails for Trails Conservancy, Eric Oberg testified that the organization believes it is important to clearly distinguish e-bikes from mopeds and other motorized vehicles.

Mr. Oberg told Rep. Reece that the e-bike motors do not exceed 20 miles per hour for Class 1 and Class 2 models. Relatively speaking, many traditional bikes are faster and Class 3 e-bikes will be optional for local governments to allow, he added.

Enforcement is not going to be easy, but admitting the small population of e-bikes is not going to change the safety paradigm on bike trails, he said.

Randy Ryberg of Fire Rivers Metro Parks in Dayton gave his support and said this bill aligns with the best practices and etiquette his park expects on its trails.

HB 264 **LICENSE PLATE (Roegner, K.)** To create the "Hudson City Schools" license plate. (REPORTED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-Interested party-Possible vote)

HB 265 **LICENSE PLATE (Roegner, K.)** To create the "Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools" license plate. (REPORTED (No testimony); 2nd Hearing-Interested party-Possible vote)

HB 270 **ROAD NAMING (Smith, K., Rogers, J.)** To designate a portion of I-271 in Cuyahoga County as the "Captain Michael Palumbo Memorial Highway." (REPORTED; 1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) said his bill designates a portion of Interstate 271 in the memory of Beachwood Fire Captain Michael Palumbo.

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) said Mr. Palumbo's fatal brain cancer was caused by his exposure in the line of duty.

The representatives said that **SB 27** was inspired by Capt. Palumbo, and with its passage families of firefighters can now claim workers compensation for the those who developed cancer in the line of duty.

Christina Palumbo, wife of the late Mr. Palumbo, said that the renaming is about her husband's service, raising awareness about the risks of cancer for firefighters, and the opportunity for their families to seek compensation through BWC.

Bill Mastroianni, director of operations for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, said, "Michael made it his mission to help educate not only our profession, but the general public, our elected officials and many others while becoming the face and namesake of SB 27."

On behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, Kent Scarrett submitted written testimony in support of the highway designation.

"This honor for Captain Palumbo will represent our appreciation for all firefighters," he said in testimony. "He is a tremendous example of the great people who serve throughout Ohio."

Nicholas Ricco of the City of Beachwood Fire Department also submitted written testimony in support of the highway designation.

HB 313 **LICENSE PLATE (Hughes, J.)** To create the "Pelotonia" license plate. (REPORTED; 1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) said his bill would create a "Pelotonia" license plate to support the annual bicycle ride that has raised more than \$130 million for cancer research. Pelotonia fundraisers directly benefit the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute at The Ohio State University, Rep. Hughes said. For every license plate sold, \$15 will be donated to cancer research, he added.

Matt Hare shared his battle with Multiple Myeloma and the impact Pelotonia has had on his life as a rider and a beneficiary. "The funding for research and Pelotonia is critical to our entire community and state," he told the committee.

HB 83 **OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR (Smith, K., Howse, S.)** To designate the planned boulevard known as the Opportunity Corridor within Cleveland as the "Carl and Louis Stokes Opportunity Corridor." (REPORTED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Louis and Cordell Stokes submitted written testimony in support of the bill to rename the Opportunity Corridor in Cleveland after their fathers, calling it the "Carl and Louis Stokes Opportunity Corridor."

Louis Stokes became the first African American to represent Ohio in the House of Representatives in 1986 and his brother Carl is a former Cleveland mayor. (See

Submission)

"This proposed street corridor renaming would be a visual tribute to their longstanding goals and an inspirational incentive to future generations of entrepreneurs," they said in testimony.

SB 77 **LICENSE PLATE (Coley, B.)** To create the "KylerStrong Foundation" license plate. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Township) said his bill creates the KylerStrong Foundation license plate to support advocacy and research.

The license plate will be named in memory of a constituent Kyler Bradley who succumbed to Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma brain cancer at age 10, he said.

Kyler's Mother, Rebecca Bradley, shared the story of her son's diagnosis and battle with brain cancer. The Kyler Strong Foundation's mission is "to raise awareness and funding to find the cure, cause and prevention of DIPG brain cancer so that no parent or child EVER has to take this journey," she said.

Since its establishment, the foundation given \$60,000 to Cincinnati Children's Hospital for DIPG research, Ms. Bradley said. For every license plate purchased, \$15 will be donated to the foundation, which will then donate the full amount to DIPG research, she added.

HR 236 **HYPERLOOP (Hughes, J.)** To express support for the Hyperloop Transportation Initiative. (REPORTED; 2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Thea Walsh, director of transportation systems and funding for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, testified in support of the resolution.

MORPC submitted the proposal for the Midwest Connect to the Hyperloop One Global Challenge, she said. "With our local innovation in smart infrastructure and the significant amount of freight moving through the state, Ohio is the perfect place to pursue opportunities with the emerging Hyperloop technology," she added.

Subscribers Note: Full testimonies are available on the committee [website](#) under Oct. 25. **Government Accountability & Oversight**

HJR 4 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** Proposing to enact Section 2t of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to allow the General Assembly to provide by law for the issuance of bonds to pay unemployment compensation benefits when the fund created for that purpose is or will be depleted or to repay outstanding advances made by the federal government to the unemployment compensation program. (CONTINUED (No testimony) (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB 312 **POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING (Schuring, K., Greenspan, D.)** Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 382 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Schuring, K.)** To modify terms describing payments made under the Unemployment Compensation Law, to increase the amount of wages subject to unemployment compensation premiums, to require qualifying employees to make payments to the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Fund, to allow the Director of Job and Family Services to adjust maximum weekly benefit amounts, to reduce the maximum number of benefit weeks, and to make other changes to the Unemployment Compensation Law. (CONTINUED (No testimony) (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-All testimony)

Health

HB 172 **MEDICAL RECORDS (Schuring, K.)** To modify the laws governing access to a patient's medical records. (CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

Megan Frantz Oldham, an attorney who testified on behalf of the Ohio Association for Justice, raised concerns that language in the bill would create uncertainty around all medical records are being retained and provided upon request.

"Giving medical providers the complete discretion to decide what is a medical record is in contravention to a patient's fundamental and inherent right to know what has been done and is being done to their bodies," she said. "It is in contravention of the goal of transparency. It is in contravention of ensuring that subsequent medical providers are accurately and fully informed."

While proponents of the bill claim the legislation wouldn't limit the information provided to litigants, she said her clients must have full access to their medical records and be able to prove issues before filing a legal claim.

Current law requires doctors' offices and hospitals to provide complete medical records when requested and there is little concern they're not following the code, Ms. Frantz Oldham said. The bill would cause uncertainty because of how it defines medical records.

"Patients will no longer have unfettered access to their medical information in order for them to make informed decisions about their health and well-being," she said. "Instead, medical providers will have the unfettered right to determine what medical information patients and their subsequent providers are entitled to."

HB 214 **ABORTION (LaTourette, S., Merrin, D.)** To prohibit a person from performing, inducing, or attempting to perform or induce an abortion on a pregnant woman who is seeking the abortion because an unborn child has or may have Down Syndrome: **(REPORTED (See separate story); 4th Hearing-Possible vote)**

HB 273 **ADMITTING PRIVILEGES (Gavarone, T.)** To prohibit a physician from being required to secure a maintenance of certification as a condition of obtaining licensure, reimbursement, or employment or obtaining admitting privileges or surgical privileges at a hospital or health care facility. **(CONTINUED; 3rd Hearing-Opponent and Interested party)**

A dozen individuals commented on the bill, and nearly all were opponents arguing it would lead to quality concerns.

"Hospitals, health plans, and the patients they serve have a right to expect that board certified medical specialists are meeting national practice standards established by their peers in their chosen medical specialty," said Mira Irons, senior vice president for academic affairs at the American Board of Medical Specialties.

She pointed to research that has found physicians who have secured a maintenance of certification are safe, more effective and incur fewer disciplinary actions.

"Physicians created board certification over 100 years ago so that patients could distinguish between physicians who had the knowledge and skills to provide the full scope of care in a given specialty, from those who did not," Ms. Irons said. "With today's rapid pace of change in medicine, hospitals, patients, providers and physicians need more than ever to be able to trust that medical specialists are up to date in their specialty's best practices. MOC provides that public attestation in a way that no other activity, including continuing medical education, does."

Diane Gorgas, a board-certified emergency physician and professor of emergency medicine at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, shared the same concerns.

The annual costs of maintaining certification are about \$250-\$300 annually, which is in line with or often much less than similar continuing education course fees paid by other professionals, such as lawyers, pilots and accountants, she said.

"Given the importance of public safety and the high stakes of patient care, it is important for physicians to be episodically assessed throughout their careers. Giving a physician a lifetime certificate that suggests quality and competency misleads the public. That's why certification must be time-limited and physicians must be required to demonstrate how well they've been keeping up," she said.

The committee also received similar testimony from the Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Association of Health Plans, Columbus Medical Association, as well as a handful of physicians from throughout the state.

HB 345 **DISEASE CURES (Butler, J.)** To adopt the Solemn Covenant of the States to award prizes for curing diseases. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) said he "truly believe(s) this bill has the potential to be the beginning of a movement, a new model to be replicated in states across the country, with the goal of discovering cures for major diseases."

The bill was inspired by his parents, both of who died from cancer, he said. When he researched their versions of the disease, he learned that there were only options to prolong their lives for a short time and not cure it.

More research funding is geared toward treatments because there is more money to be made if they're successful, he said. Many researchers don't seek to build on cure studies because the costs that go into them far exceed what it can be worth financially.

"There is no money in it. If you have a cure for any disease whatsoever you can basically never make back your investment," Rep. Butler said.

States and the world at large could see significant cost benefits, however, he said. Under the bill, which was unveiled previously at a Statehouse news conference (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, September 12, 2017**), the prize provided by the Solemn Covenant of States would be determined by health care savings, which would likely reach into the tens of billions of dollars.

The compact would choose which 10 diseases that cost the most to treat and make them a priority for prize money, he said. States that don't join the compact could have to pay rebates to those that do once they start seeing financial benefits from cures.

"I think that if we're able to do this and there's this very important financial incentive out there, we have so much innovation especially in our country that within 5-10 years we will see cures for major diseases happen," Rep. Butler said.

A handful of committee members on both sides of the aisle praised the sponsor's penchant for thinking big with the bills he introduces.

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) asked if he had spoken with other states about joining the compact. Rep. Butler said he's spoken with legislators from other states as well as national associations representing lawmakers and all have been in favor of the bill.

If the bill becomes law, he said he intends to promote the compact in other states.

Rep. Butler told **Rep. Nickie Antonio** (D-Lakewood) that future witnesses will provide evidence that research isn't focused on a cure.

It's possible there is someone who has already developed a cure for cancer or other diseases, but clinical trials couldn't be funded, he said. Those are the kind of people he hopes will be encouraged by the billions of dollars that could be won through the compact structure.

Answering additional questions from the panel, the sponsor said the compact would be responsible for marketing the cures and contracting with companies to produce any related drugs.

Higher Education & Workforce Development

HB 240 **MONTH DESIGNATION** (**Barnes, J.**) To enact the "Respect Your Date Act" to designate the month of April as "Respect Your Date Month" and to require each state institution of higher education to adopt a policy regarding dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and rape on campus and to declare an emergency. (**CONTINUED (No testimony)**; 3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB 363 **CAMPUS SPEECH** (**Goodman, W., Brenner, A.**) To enact the "Campus Free Speech Act" with respect to the freedom of speech and assembly at state institutions of higher education and the charging and allocation of student activity fees. (**CONTINUED**; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) said the bill is pertinent at a time when Americans appear to be at odds with one another more than ever.

The measure, which he and co-sponsor **Rep. Andy Brenner** (R-Powell) detailed in an August press conference, would prohibit institutions from canceling or preventing an event from taking place if the action has a chilling effect on free speech. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, September 29, 2017**)

"A free and open exchange of speech and ideas is critical to ensuring that our students have the most meaningful and impactful education experience in a way that prepares them to be active and engaged citizens in our Republic," Rep. Goodman said.

The testimony comes as Ohio State University is facing a lawsuit for refusing to allow white supremacist Richard Spencer to speak on campus amid safety concerns. (See **Gongwer Ohio Report, October 23, 2017**)

Rep. Goodman said the bill makes it clear how institutions will have to react when faced with a free speech issue.

"This bill protects universities by providing clear guidance on campus speech issues, rather than forcing them to rely on ad-hoc decision making. When universities are challenged on their decisions, they can point to specific provisions in state law that guide their actions," he said.

Rep. Brenner added: "We have been fortunate in Ohio on this point to where such incidents have not been as severe. With our current political climate, I don't believe that it will continue to be that way and, therefore, House Bill 363 will provide guidance to a university when confronted with such a situation."

Chairman **Rep. Mike Duffey** (R-Worthington) questioned why universities and colleges are the only public entities addressed in the bill. Rep. Goodman said he'd welcome legislation pertaining to free speech in other public buildings, but the education institutions are common places for events that would highlight controversial ideas.

Recalling a Klu.Klux.Klan rally that took place in Cleveland in 1999, **Rep. Kent Smith** (D-Euclid) said there were no issues because the city took extensive actions to protect free speech and prepare for protesting.

He asked whether it's reasonable to require institutions to make such accommodations when they can be quite expensive.

"Because they're not going to be able to pull the plug, have we now put a substantial price tag on just the potential of something getting really crazy?" Rep. Smith said.

Likewise, Rep. Duffey and **Rep. Catherine Ingram** (D-Cincinnati) asked the sponsors if the state should pick up the tab for significant expenses institutions incur when protecting the First Amendment rights of controversial speakers or rallies.

Cost should not be a factor when it comes to protecting constitutional rights, Rep. Brenner said, suggesting that the General Assembly could offer to help institutions cover security costs on a case-by-case basis.

"There should be no limit in money to defend the First Amendment of the United States," he said. "The government has an obligation to defend the First Amendment."

Rep. Ingram also raised concerns about the liability institutions could face even if they do accept a speaker's invitation, suggesting a lawsuit could ensue if a smaller-desired-venue was booked.

She also suggested the bill's language be updated to require institutions to permit events so long as speakers are invited by authorized groups at the college or university.

Rep. Goodman said he thinks it's important to protect individual students' rights to invite speakers to campuses.

HB 66 **TENURED FACULTY (Young, R.)** To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester. (**CONTINUED-AMENDED**; 4th Hearing-Interested Party-Possible amendments)

The committee accepted an amendment that Chairman Duffey explained would eliminate proposed rankings of state institutions and instead categorize them as successfully promoting the undergraduate mission or as needing more work in the area.

The change was backed by the Inter-University Council, with President Bruce Johnson saying the bill provides an opportunity to show off the work of faculty - even if it does mean a lot of extra administrative work.

"The new requirements in House Bill 66 will result in administrative work that must be done both during the course of the study and then after the study is completed and the recommendations are adopted and required to be implemented," he said.

"Despite this concern, however, the IUC believes that the added administrative burden actually presents an opportunity. That is, this bill presents an excellent opportunity for faculty to demonstrate just how vital their role is to the public institution's undergraduate mission, how they are contributing in that role, and how integral it truly is to the overall mission."

Mr. Johnson said he's confident that universities and faculty members will be praised for their student engagement in the bill's required report on institutions.

Dan Krane, chair of the Ohio Faculty Council, shared similar sentiments, saying that tenure demands excellence and requires consistency of professors while also providing them protections to expand on their research and remain in the public university system.

When there was a perception of plans to weaken tenure in Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin - Madison lost 29 faculty members despite making \$23.6 million worth of counter offers, he said.

"Ohio derives great benefit from its wide variety of teaching, research and service contributions by faculty and the wide range of missions at each of our public institutions of higher education," Mr. Krane said. "We expect each individual faculty member and each of the institutions of which they are a part to be deeply committed to revitalizing the economy of the State and the nation by attracting and training an educated workforce."

He told Rep. Duffey that it's possible that faculty at more universities would pursue unionization if they felt that the state had an interest in weakening tenure.

Responding to a question from Rep. Ingram, Mr. Krane said the committee created under the bill should consider ways to find even comparisons between schools if they are going to be graded because all have different missions.

Community & Family Advancement

HB 119 **SNAP (Henne, M., McColley, R.)** Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program. **(REPORTED (No testimony); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)**

HB 126 **KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (Boyd, J., Rezabek, J.)** To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator program. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony)**

HB 340 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Young, R.)** Regarding the release of information concerning public and medical assistance recipients. **(CONTINUED (See separate story); 2nd Hearing-Proponent)**

SB 70 **CHILD SUPPORT (Coley, B.)** To amend the child support laws. **(CONTINUED (No testimony); 3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)**

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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, October 26

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.
Congressional Redistricting Working Group, Rm. 313, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

House Speaker's Task Force on Education & Poverty, 77 S High St, 19th Flr., Room 1960, Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Board of Education, 26 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m. (Gifted Advisory Council)

Facilities Construction Commission, Rm. 121, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Broadcast Educational Media Commission, 2470 North Star Rd., Columbus, 2 p.m. (Finance Committee)

Event Planner

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Cimenero's Banquet Center, 123 N. Main St., Niles, 5 p.m., (Victory Sponsor \$1,400, Touchdown Sponsor \$700, Field Goal Sponsor \$300, Individual Tickets \$50 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

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Volume #86, Report #206 -- Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Senate Leader Says Budget Update Expected In Coming Weeks; Property Tax Complaint, Move-Over Bills Pass

Senate President Larry Obhof said Wednesday he believes conference committee negotiations around a pending omnibus bill to address lingering budget issues will wrap up by early to mid-November.

Originally a school technology and safety bill, the measure (SB 8) is being targeted by lawmakers as a vehicle to correct budget language and potentially avoid future budget veto overrides.

"My anticipation is whatever we work out we will do so by the next time the Senate is in session," the Medina Republican said. "I would expect in the next two weeks we'll do whatever we're going to do."

The Senate is scheduled to next meet Nov. 8, but Sen. Obhof also floated the chamber's planned Nov. 15 meeting as a potential deadline. Without elaborating, he said there is "plenty of room for compromise" on various aspects being negotiated.

Among anticipated topics is a yet-to-be unveiled agreement between lawmakers, the administration on counties over the Medicaid managed care sales tax, which could be included in SB8. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 26, 2017)

"I don't anticipate it becoming a really large corrective bill but we'll see," Sen. Obhof said. "We'll continue our discussions with the House and wherever we end up will be agreeable to both chambers and the administration."

Senate Action: Meanwhile, the Senate passed three bills unanimously, including a House bill to codify Supreme Court decisions related to property tax complaints, and Senate bills regarding waste collection vehicles and electronic legal documents.

The House bill (HB 118) from Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee) is intended to codify Supreme Court decisions from 2013 and 2014 that found a property tax complaint cannot be dismissed because of owner misidentification, said Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon).

"You'd be amazed at how many times this happens," the senator told colleagues on the floor. Such dismissals are made "to the detriment of the fair administration of our tax system and, frankly, justice."

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) said his bill (SB 127) would make a simple change adding waste collection vehicles to the list of vehicles granted move-over protection. The

legislation would require drivers to change lanes or proceed with caution when approaching a parked waste collection vehicle.

Sen. LaRose said the bill is more needed than ever considering the increase in distracted driving. "The men and women out there picking up the trash put themselves in great danger to do so," the sponsor said. "This can happen on a 25 mile-per-hour street."

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) and Sen. Eklund each urged passed of their bill (SB 139), which aims to ensure official and authentic versions of state legal material are available to the public.

"Online publication is often accompanied by the decision to stop providing print copies of the printed material," Sen. Skindell said. "Senate Bill 139 provides a mechanism for providing the state's official legal material online with the same level of trustworthiness traditionally afforded to print publications."

The measure also lays out requirements for preserving and ensuring the backup and recovery of that material, the sponsors said.

Unemployment Compensation Bill Draws No Testimony As Business, Labor Remain Divided

The House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee was slated to hear testimony from all sides Wednesday on a proposal to revamp the state's unemployment compensation system.

Instead, it heard nothing.

The contentious bill (HB 382), along with a companion resolution (HJR 4), aims to ensure the state's system is solvent. Legislative leaders, including sponsor Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), have described the proposal as a "conversation starter," but the conversation has yet to take the form of testimony.

Rep. Schuring said Wednesday he saw the quiet hearing as a good sign.

"To know that there's no one who's come in to say they're against it means there might be an opportunity to get this thing passed," he said.

The sponsor pointed to other legislation on the issue that he's sponsored, namely a bill introduced toward the end of the last session (HB620, 131st General Assembly), which drew many opponents.

"This is a bill that no one's going to jump up and down for joy, because it requires sacrifice," he said. "It's a bill that they can't take, either labor or management, to their respective members and say 'look what we did for you.'"

Committee Chairman Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) said he couldn't speculate on the reason nobody showed up to testify, and stressed that it was still early in the process.

"It's probably going to be a very long timeline," he said.

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) said Tuesday that the bill will need more work.

"I think the conversation has been that it needs to have some more vetting and some more work. I don't think that it's necessarily that it won't pass," he told reporters after session.

"I think it is very necessary that we do everything we can to sure up the system for the future for our state, and nobody is going to like it," the speaker added. "We can try all we want, but all sides are not going to like it, but that's what legislating is all about. You can't make everybody happy."

Rep. Schuring said he planned to continue meeting with stakeholders about the bill, but that he would also be working to gain the support of committee members.

"Right now there's no official opposition," he said. "If there's no official opposition, that also could mean we have a green light to move the bill."

While nobody testified against the measure, that doesn't mean everyone is happy with it.

"It's a starting point," Don Boyd, director labor and legal affairs for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, said in an interview. "We're treating it as such and we didn't feel the need to go in and testify on a bill point by point that we know is going to have to go through significant changes before it has a chance to go anywhere."

Mr. Boyd said the chamber continues to have concerns about a proposal for employees to pay a coinsurance payment into the fund. He said the bill isn't a balanced approach.

"There are a lot of items on the revenue side, a lot of tax increases for what amounts to in many parts of the bill some temporary changes to benefits," he said. "We think we need to take a look at both sides and try to come up with something that's a truly balanced approach and makes sense."

The chamber has been willing to discuss increases in employer contributions, he said.

"I think we've come into this acknowledging that employers are part of the solution to pay a little bit more in, so we need some additional discussions on the benefit side to try to address this problem," he said.

On the labor side, benefit cuts are a serious concern.

Matthew Szollosi, executive director of Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio, said his group is opposed to the bill in its current form. He cited the reduction in the maximum weeks an unemployed worker could receive benefits from 26 to 24, and changes to the dependency benefit.

Mr. Szollosi said the process would be difficult, but the bill is a start.

"The bill represents a better starting point than House Bill 620 or House Bill 394, which were awful," he said in an interview. "The bill certainly needs a good bit of work."

The coinsurance proposal is one Mr. Szollosi said he would look more into as an alternative to cuts.

"The concept of the co-premium is intriguing since we strongly prefer a reasonable employee contribution over benefit cuts," he said. "We're open to considering an employee contribution to help achieve a solvent unemployment compensation trust fund."

The current bill is a step forward, he said, because employer and labor groups agreed on a target for solvency. The difficulty is figuring out how to get there.

"Unemployment compensation is a difficult issue," he said. "Employer groups don't want increases and groups representing workers are adamantly against benefit cuts. That makes progress elusive."

House Panel Endorses Down Syndrome Abortion Ban

The House Health Committee on Wednesday advanced a measure to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

Members voted along party lines, with Democrats opposing the bill (HB 214), to penalize physicians who perform abortions on patients seeking abortions because prenatal testing has diagnosed Down syndrome.

The bill's sponsors, Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) and Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Maumee), thanked fellow panel members for a respectful debate on the measure.

"This bill is about so much more than abortion. I truly believe it's about discriminating against some of our most vulnerable," Rep. LaTourette said.

Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) said that while she would never support dictating women's health decisions, the bill raises an important issue that needs addressed in that surveys show many of the women who do prenatal testing and find Down syndrome seek abortions.